UITENHAGE

PAST AND PRESENT.

By W. S. J. Sellick.

BOOK ON UITENHAGE URGED

A suggestion that "some talented person with the itch to write" should start collecting material for a history of Uitenhage during the years 1904 to 1954 will be made by the retiring Mayor, Mr. J. S. Levy, when he presents his review before the installation of the new Mayor to-night.

The town will celebrate its 150th birthday in 1954.

Mr. Levy feels that the book would prove an ideal companion volume to "that wonderful" reference book "Uitenhage, Past and Present," which was written and published by Mr. W. J. S. Sellick when Uitenhage celebrated its centenary in 1904.

"Any effort of this nature would, I feel sure, receive the blessing of the Council," Mr. Levy says.

Copies of Mr. Sellick's book are very rare to-day and are regarded as Africana. Offers of £20 for copies of the book have been refused.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED
· BY ·
W. S. J. SELLICK,
At the
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CRADOCK PARKIN. MAYOR OF UITENHAGE

UITENHAGE

PAST AND PRESENT

UITENHAGE MUNICIPALITY

SOUVENIR OF THE CENTENARY,

1804-1904.

THE LATE GEO MACPHERSON 8 TIMES MAYOR OF UITENHAGE

THOS W MILLS EX MAYOR OF UITENHAGE

FRONTISPIECE.

A Sketch of Uitenhage in 1819.

A View of Uitenhage in 1904.

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PREFATORY.

WE issue this work with a certain degree of diffidence, because, from the title "Uitenhage Past and Present," some of our readers may be led to expect within its covers more than they will find. On the 4th November, 1904, Uitenhage reached its 100th birthday, and it was believed that the Town Council would take the initiative steps to celebrate the Centenary in some public and appropriate way, and we had intended to take that opportunity of issuing this book as a Souvenir of the event. But the Centenary fell flat, and nothing was done. It then occurred to us to abandon our original intention also, and enlarge on the idea of a "Souvenir," and publish a regular history of Uitenhage and the District from the time of its foundation. The present work is the result.

We have done our best, with the meagre material at our disposal, to compile a reliable history of the district, and have spared neither trouble nor expense in the undertaking. But for all that it is not nearly so comprehensive as we could have wished, and no doubt many of our readers will be disappointed at not finding any mention of certain past events and legendary lore that have been handed down from generation to generation. We will explain these omissions by saying that, although many incidents and anecdotes of men and things now past have been related to us, the reason they have not found a place in this book is because they cannot be authenticated. Many of those incidents and anecdotes are no doubt perfectly true, and would make most interesting reading, and would probably enhance the value of this book as an "interesting" work to read. But we all know how legends are apt to grow when handed down from generation to generation, and the difficulty is to separate the tares from the good wheat. Therefore, so as to make this little history so far as it goes reliable, we have omitted practically everything that cannot be substantiated by documentary evidence.

The difficulties attending the compilation of a work of this kind can only be known to those who have made a similar attempt; and as far as Uitenhage is concerned, we cannot find that any such attempt has ever been previously made. Therefore we trust our many shortcomings in this respect will be overlooked, and the book taken for what it is worth.

Our readers may form some idea of the work entailed, if we mention but three items. First came the examination of the minute books of the Dutch Reformed Church. They have in the vestry of that church the minute books complete for 100 years, nearly all of which we have had to "wade" through. And we have also had to go through the minute books of the Town and Divisional Councils, each of which have meant some months' work. But we are quite sure the extracts we have made from those three sets of minutes will be found to be most interesting reading, comprising, as it does, practically the whole history of the place.

We have endeavoured to enlarge more upon the history of the district as it affects the general public than upon the individual doings of "men who were, but now are not." We regret this, but it was unavoidable. So many public-spirited men have had their being in and devoted their energies to Uitenhage and the district, and who without a doubt deserve to have their good deeds handed down to posterity, that we felt that if we once launched into this subject it would be difficult to bring the matter within the compass of this work. Indeed, should any writer in the future but take up this subject and publish a faithful account of the doings of all the principal men who have had a hand in the making of Uitenhage and the district, we can promise him material for a book twice the size of this.

In the compilation of "Uitenhage Past and Present" we cannot take all the credit to ourselves, for we have been ably assisted by the following gentlemen, to whom we take this opportunity of expressing thanks for their various contributions :

The Rt. Rev. BISHOP McSHERRY
Rev. C. B. JECKS
,, D. J. PIENAAR
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,, J. W. HOUSEHAM
,, THOS. GAMBLE
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,, J. E. T. WEITZ
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,, G. L. VAN NIEKERK
,, J. C. JOHNSON
,, HERBERT INGGS
Mrs. COLLING
and others.

We may add that several other gentlemen promised articles on subjects of interest of which they alone possess particulars, but they have failed to fulfil those promises, and waiting for these articles has been the main cause of the delay in publishing this work, and its incompleteness in having to omit such articles altogether.

INTRODUCTORY.

IT is a source of legitimate pride to the inhabitants of Uitenhage that the town and district in which they reside will ever rank high in the history of Cape Colony as being among the most ancient in the whole country. To a comparatively young Colony a hundred years are virtually equivalent to a thousand years at home, for the stream of time flows more rapidly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries than it did in the ninth and tenth. But Uitenhage is of no mushroom growth. Neither is the district of which it is the centre. Curiously enough, while the advance of the former has always been distinguished by expansion, the progress of the latter has been characterised by contraction. The histories of both are lined by the high-water marks of prosperity and scarred by the low-water ridges of adversity. Consequently, the narrative of their origin, rise, and subsequent progress is invested with peculiar interest, and in this volume it will be interwoven with such details as will serve to knit the unpretentious Uitenhage of 1804 with the ambitious Uitenhage of 1904. In other words, it will be a case of bridging the century.

But to understand the posit on thoroughly it is necessary to begin at the beginning, and to trace the circumstances that led to the founding of the place itself. It is always well to consider the old order before dealing with the new.

The *regime* of the Netherlands East India Company had passed away: its object in South Africa had been accomplished. On the shores of Table Bay stood a quiet township, laid out in comfortable squares, with deep canals running through the broad streets from the foot of Table Mountain to the sea. Beautiful oaks bordered the sides of these "grachts,"* as they were called, but the pride of the city, the very mention of which could make the eyes of even its most phlegmatic inhabitants sparkle with pride, was its magnificent Gardens. Here the hale and sick, the rich and the poor, the miserable invalid from the east, the scurvy-stricken sailor from the west—all sorts and conditions of men, in fact—could find health and enjoyment. Here also were obtained the provisions for the scorbutics in the hospital, and it only required a six months' course of vegetable diet, with plenty of fresh air and fresh water, to turn into a strong and healthy sailor the unfortunate mariner whose berth on east or west bound vessels had been filled by one who had become convalescent by similar treatment. Here, too, was the great frowning fort, deemed by the townsfolk to be impregnable. Hence, there was everything on the shores of Table Bay that the Company could desire—a garden, a hospital, a fort, people to provide the green-stuff and the dairy produce so necessary to the fleets—while the constant demand for fresh meat was largely met by the Hottentots who came from the far interior with their flocks and herds. This had been the great ideal which existed in the minds of those who arranged for the establishment of a half-way house, and it had been realised.

But a difference now arose between the Company and its servants. The former thought only of centralization and of its own financial prosperity. Every little bit of profit that could possibly accrue from the Colony had to find its way into the pockets of the shareholders. No matter how hard the brave pioneers strove to rid the country of wild animals, to cultivate the virgin soil and to protect themselves and their cattle from the ravages of the wild man—the Company cared absolutely nothing for their toil and hardships. True, they had been granted the title of "free burghers" (and a grant of land had attended this title), but it was only a name. They were still servants with but one exception, namely, that when they acted as soldiers they were paid for their labour, while for the title of "free burgher" they often had to pay with a life's service. The cereals raised with such infinite trouble, so frequently destroyed by wild beasts, by wilder men or by the still more dreaded rust, were to be sold only to the Company and at its fixed prices. Generally speaking, these were so meagre that, after the fruits of a year's unremitting toil had been disposed of, the unfortunate burgher found himself deeply in debt. Not only was he bound to sell to the Company all that he raised, but he was also bound to purchase from them all that he needed for his household. Small indeed was the return that he received for his work, but even then he was liable to be mulct by the very men who should have acted as his protectors. Every official with whom he came into commercial contact invariably endeavoured to make something out of him; so that at last, rendered desperate by corruption, debt, and profitless toil, he began to look about for some means of escaping from the slavery into which he had gradually degenerated.

* A *gracht* was a broad sluit or canal running down the middle of a street. The roadways and footpaths were constructed on either side of it. The word still exists in the name "Buitengracht Street"—one of the main thoroughfares in Cape Town to-day.

It was the corn and wine farmer whose shoes pinched so unbearably. The grazier, although his life was far from being a happy one, was not only in easier circumstances, but was, as a general rule, much wealthier than his less fortunate brother. Sheep and cattle were always in demand, and the demand was frequently greater than the supply. Again, the expenses of running a stock farm were next to nothing, and the whole of the proceeds realised were therefore solid profit. His wants were few and simple. Coffee, sugar, tobacco, some yards of calico for his wife and daughters, and he had everything he could possibly require until his next periodical visit to the nearest dorp, or to the Kraal.

The unhappy corn and wine farmer regarded him with envy, and yearned for a life so free from care and drudgery. But there was the dear old home stead, the orchard and the vineyard planted in the full vigour of youthful hope and expectation; every foot of cultivated ground was endeared to him because it represented his life's history, and so he bethought himself of one more expedient to preserve to himself the fruits of his life's toil. He believed that freedom to trade would solve his difficulties, and, as Providence helps those who help themselves, it seemed nothing short of a Godsend when Ryk van Tulbagh was appointed Governor of the Cape in 1751.

Never were the people so prosperous and so contented as while under his wise and beneficent rule. What cared they if Father Tulbagh did insist upon enforcing Sumptuary Laws? These were reckoned unto him for righteousness. The manners and customs of their forefathers were but retained and preserved. Honesty, frugality, and the fear of God were inculcated and practised. It was no longer necessary to sell to the Company at ruinous prices. On the contrary, there were the great English, Dutch, and French fleets constantly arriving and ever in need of fresh fruit, vegetables, corn, wine, and water, as well as meat, venison, etc. They were able and willing to pay, too. Never before had money circulated so merrily at the Cape, and it is no wonder that the days of Father Tulbagh have ever since been regarded by the descendants of the Dutch burgher and of the French Huguenot as the golden era in this southern land!

But all good things, alas, come to an end at last, and so, in the course of time, did Tulbaghs's rule. Shortly after his decease in 1771, the Company drifted once more into the old insane policy of monopoly. Petition after petition for free trade found its way to Holland and Batavia. The Company, too, was being hard pressed by its English and French rivals, and no longer possessed the entire monopoly of the Eastern trade. The Cape had become a necessity, but, owing to misrule, it had also become a financial burden. The Company could neither do with it nor without it, and to grant freedom of trade at a period of such unprecedented stress seemed to the Chamber of Seventeen to be an act of absolute madness. Heavier monopoly and severer taxation met the cry of the farmer, and so, to escape from the millstone of debt that was hanging round his neck, he decided that there was only one course open to him—expansion. Following the example set him by his fellow Colonist, the grazier, he, too, would pack his belongings upon a wagon, take his gun and trek. And so this great trek set in—to the North and to the East—expansion, ever expansion!

But this view did not appeal to the Company. Their idea was not colonization. They did not want a free and easy community. Servants, Yes—but a real population of Free Burghers, No! So Governor after Governor issued placaats against expansion. Again and again the boundaries of the settlement were clearly defined; and by these paper bullets the Seventeen thought of stopping the natural sequence of events. But all to no purpose. The burgher had his oxen, wagon, gun, and powder, and a practically unlimited expanse of country through which he could roam at will, until at last he came across some delightful nook suited to his taste, and where he could settle down in peace. He was not going to be debarred from going where he pleased, from settling where he liked, or from using the illimitable veld by placaats or boundaries.

The Company had no other opposition to place in his way. Bankrupt, they could not oppose the burgher by force, and so they bowed to the inevitable. When he had gone so far that he could not be easily reached for the purpose of collecting the few rix-dollars of quitrent, a church and drostdy would be built to form the nucleus of a new township. The Company knew that although he with whom they had to deal could not be stopped on his career of expansion he could still be controlled. He was first and foremost a deeply religious man. The one and only book which accompanied him in his wandering was the Bible, and, according to his lights, he regulated the conduct of his household and of himself by its precepts. And it was owing to its influence that he did not altogether sink into barbarism or turn into a Nomad. It was owing to its influence, too, that, next to his religion, he was swayed by his reverence for the law. True, he did not allow that reverence to induce him to give up trekking. His natural instinct led him to see that on this particular point he was right and the Government wrong. But on the further questions of political and fiscal regulations he was quite willing to bow to the powers that existed, for did not his Book tell him to "Fear God and honour the King?"

Consequently, although the Government was too weak to force him to pay quitrent, and other indirect taxes, he still paid them voluntarily (whenever he could do so) without going to the

trouble and expense of a journey lasting weeks or even months. Hence it was that, knowing the character of the pioneer, the Government would invest in the outlay of building a drostdy and a church, and, in the end, a school, besides providing for the maintenance of a landdrost, a clergyman, and a schoolmaster, certain that in the end they would be amply recouped for the expenditure, and, in the meantime, receive good interest on a safe investment. Hence, too, originated a custom which obtains in our time—the Nachtmaal Service, which recurs every three months. Godfearing as these people were, one can quite understand that the head of the household must often have been put to great straits for something fresh in his morning and evening family prayers and in his Sunday exhortations.

The quarterly Nachtmaal Service therefore came to be looked upon by him at first as a pleasant relaxation, and at last as an absolute necessity for the provision of fresh ideas and lights for his own spiritual guidance, and, through him, for his family, his servants, and his slaves. He looked upon the aborigines of the country as bondmen provided for his use by the Almighty, of whose special race he had the honour to be a member. But though an individual might be a bondman, one whom it would be a sin to teach to read and write, yet he was an animated being. It was thus his bounden duty to instruct his slave regarding his mortal and eternal welfare. Hence, morning and evening and on every Sunday, the whole family, bond and free, would be gathered round the family altar to hear the inspired Word, and to listen to the exhortations and prayers of the patriarch.

At the Nachtmaal, too, he would meet kindred spirits ; and thus receive news of relatives distant from him, and learn something about the events happening in the outer world. Events three months old would be to him fresh, and matters whose cause and effect had passed into history would by him be discussed with the zest and vigour which a telegram of to-day concerning a great battle, a proposed new law, or a cricket match would excite.

Thus the patriarch would go north and eastwards, until he found a convenient spot suited to his fancy, and there he would settle. But that spot was to be so far removed from his nearest neighbour that the smoke of his hearth had to be invisible on the horizon. And when his sons arrived at the age of manhood they, too, would follow the custom of their forefathers, pack up their little belongings, get a strapping wench from Oom Piet or Koos for a wife, and trek. Their route can to this day be traced by the nomenclature of the farms and the natural features of the country through which they passed. Here would be a river which would have to be crossed again and again and so often, that no fitter name could tell of its interminable windings than *Zonder Eind*, (Without End.) Then another, where great good fortune brought a herd of elephants into the way of the trek. To commemorate this, what should it be called but Olifants River ? And after all the hardships of the journey, the wished-for spot at last comes in view. Here will he fix his habitation, and hand down to posterity his great good fortune by calling it " Rust en Vrede " (Rest and Peace), after months of worry and war with nature, man and beast.

Here and there, too, the very road which had been cut through forest and through and over the mountain ravines may still be seen. Such a one, for instance, yet remains in existence near the Montagu Pass, between the George and Oudtshoorn districts. Its direction and construction tell us something of the character of these old trekkers. There was no backing out when once a start had been made for the unknown. They saw the thing through, in a slow but stern and uncompromising manner, come what might. When a kloof or precipice came in the way there was no divergence towards an easier gradient or a safer ascent. It was *daardoor* or *daarover*—(through it or over it.) Gradients of 1 in 8 were common things, and here and there the wagons had to be unloaded and actually taken to pieces in order either to be lowered down or hauled up some steep declivity or ascent. How they managed with the old lumbering and heavy vehicles remains a marvel to this very day, but manage it they did, and glad indeed must they have felt when, on having conquered the mountain and having turned their faces eastward, they found a practically easy country to travel in—a long valley well wooded, well watered, and stored with game of all kinds, large and small, with flocks of ostriches, and droves of wild asses to vary the even tenor of the way. At one place a halt of a few days was called for a big zebra hunt, and one of the pioneers became so enamoured with the spot that he definitely fixed his habitation here. To this moment it still belongs to his descendants, who have spread from thence to the east and to the west. Here is still shown with pride the old *opstal* or original dwelling-house, and the name borne by the farm to this very day brings back to memory the great zebra hunt—" Ezeljacht " (the hunt of the wild ass)—while the name of Raubenheimer has spread from this centre to such an extent that it can be found all over the Midlands and northwards into the Transvaal. Neither is it unknown in the military annals of the pioneers, for was not a Raubenheimer one of the six companions of Louw Wepener who stormed Thaba Bosigo, and was he not killed when only five yards from the summit ?

On journeyed these old pioneers. The band ever and anon became smaller as the fancy of one

or the other was captured by some spot lovelier than its surroundings.

The remainder patiently worked their way along this valley, which, with their usual felicity, they named the Long Kloof, until, on one memorable evening, was reached, a dale lovelier than any they had yet seen, and here a whole family elected to remain. To commemorate the time of their arrival at this haven of rest, the Zondags called it Avond-uur—the Hour of Evening—but this has since been corrupted into Avontuur (Adventure).

Now, as these people had wandered so far east, it seemed fitting to the Dutch East India Company that an attempt should be made to stop further expansion. Governor van Plettenberg, brother-in-law of his predecessor, Father Tulbagh, therefore set out on a tour eastwards. He followed the route taken by the travellers until he came to the gorge now known as the Montagu Pass, but, dismayed by the awful road, he preferred travelling to the East through the forest, but on the south side of the Outeniqua range, and thus he proceeded as far as the Bay which still bears his name. There he erected a *baaken* or beacon in token of possession. It was a roughly hewn stone [illegible] bearing the arms of the Netherlands East India Company, together with his own arms and an inscription to the effect that the stone in question had been erected by Baron Joachim van Plettenberg to indicate the Eastern boundary of the Netherlands East India Company.

From thence the eastern boundary was to extend to a partially defined point in the north, and beyond this imaginary line no subject of the Company was permitted to trek in an easterly direction. Should he do so, he was to lose all civil rights, and to be no longer entitled to the protection of the Company. Van Plettenberg then crossed over to the Long Kloof, and when he came to Ezeljacht he spent several weeks in hunting and visiting the Long Kloof farmers, whilst a road was being constructed across the Outeniqua, starting from Ezeljacht, and which, after crossing mountain and forest, emerged at the spot now called Woodville.

But boundaries, placaats, and even the personal visits of Governors could not stop the trek east and north. No sooner was the Governor's back turned than the huge lumbering wagons were inspanned, and faces were once more set towards the east. Two routes were followed—one along the Long Kloof between the Outeniqua and Kamnatie mountains, the other south of the Outemquas, between them and the sea, and through the great forests of the Knysna and T'zitzikama.

[illegible] on an eminence and stands on a small kopje about 300 [illegible] and three or four miles from the main road. It is [illegible] having been enclosed by a stout iron railing, [illegible] preservation.

In these wanderings the pioneers had to contend not only with the natural difficulties of mountain and flood, and with dangerous wild animals such as elephants, lions, and buffaloes, but they had ever to be on the watch to protect their flocks from the ravages of the jackal, the wild dog, and the hyena.

At fixed intervals all along their route can still be seen little buildings in the shape of a domestic oven, and, if one questions the descendants of these indomitable pioneers regarding the meaning of the said erections, he will be told that they were *wolf-huizen* (wolf houses) built by the old trekkers. Never could more than two *schoften* be made in one day—that is to say, the rate of progress never exceeded more than twelve miles per diem. A "schoff" would be two hours by wagon,—*i.e.* about six miles. And all along the route the country was infested with hyenas, or, as the Dutch called them, wolves.

This animal was a cowardly brute by day, but most ferocious by night. Other beasts could be scared by fire, but for this the hyena cared nothing. A sheep, or a new-born lamb for preference, he would have, and, in spite of fire, gun, or the presence of man himself, he generally got whatever he wanted. So that at last this plan of laying a trap for him was hit upon. A little oven-shaped building of solid stone was constructed with a door just wide enough for the wolf to creep through. A kind of trap door was made, so that when once the animal entered the oven he would touch a spring, and thus cause the door to fall and imprison him. Behind the oven a ewe and a new born lamb were securely fastened to a stake for the purpose of luring the depredator to his destruction. The watchers lay round the trap in a semi-circle so as to protect the sheep, while the track leading to the erection was left unguarded.

The pathetic bleating of sheep and lamb soon brought Mr. Hyena to the spot. Being as discreet as he was cunning, he preferred to take the course which presented to him the least element of danger. Hence he would proceed very cautiously, led on by the continuous bleat of the decoy until the doorway of the trap was reached. Invitingly it stood open, and, frightened almost to death by the presence of its enemy, which although unseen, was nevertheless betrayed by its odour, the distress of both ewe and lamb would be redoubled, as would also be their struggles to escape from their dreaded foe. Anticipating a delicious meal, the prudence of the intruder is thrown to the winds. Into the trap he rushes, the door falls with a thud, and he finds himself a prisoner without hope of escape. There he languishes miserably until sheer starvation at length puts an end to his existence.

But cleverer foes were the jackals and the wild dogs, for the latter were the most dangerous

enemies the sheep farmer had to contend with. The tiger will kill until he is satiated, the hyena may be satisfied with a ewe or a lamb a night, the jackal will prowl about during the hours of darkness only, and may easily be scared by fires and by watchmen. The wild dog, however, raids both by night and by day. Nor will he kill. No watchman will prevent him from attacking a flock. In packs of from six to twenty, these pests will run yelping among the sheep, snap at each animal they meet, and tear great strips of quivering flesh from the living bodies. They do not take the trouble to kill, and devour the carcase. When such a pack got among a flock, hundreds of poor animals were maimed before assistance could arrive. When once they had tasted blood, moreover, they would not hesitate to attack their human foes, and cases are on record of young boys and girls being torn to pieces by these ferocious hounds.

Thus the trekkers had ever to be on the watch. Never for a minute were the gun, the bullet pouch, and powder flask out of reach. Every morning, after prayers and coffee, the first thing that occupied attention was the *snaf haam*, or, as it later grew to be called, *baviaan hout*. Flints were carefully examined and sharpened, the pan and touch hole properly cleaned, the barrel thoroughly oiled, and often, too, the bullets were moulded, because at any moment some lion, tiger, or wild dog might make its appearance.

This reminds one of the anecdote of the Koetze wagon. The *schof* of the day had been a particularly long one, and twilight was deepening when the place for outspanning was decided upon. All the men were busy with the oxen and flocks and arranging the laager for the night, while the women were getting the evening meal ready. Watch fires had not yet been lighted. One lad of fifteen was left to keep guard with his gun. Suddenly and unexpectedly an immense lion appeared on this busy scene, and made his presence known by a deafening roar. Men and women rushed to the wagons for weapons or protection. Confusion reigned supreme when a shot was heard, and the lion rolled headlong over, in front of the patriarch's wagon, dead as a door nail. And there was young Gert Koetze, with smoking gun, unconcernedly looking at the brute he had just shot. Danger over, down stepped the patriarch from the wagon and marched up to the young giant, hat in hand. "Neef, wie is u, als ik vragen mag"?—"Sir, who are you, if I may ask?" "Kyk, ik ben pa's zoon Gert."—"Why, I am pa's son Gert"—wasthe reply. But so sudden had been attack and deliverance that, quite dazed, the old man repeated the question; and it was some time before he could be made to understand that it was his own son who had rid them of their dangerous foe. And so every family of these pioneers has some anecdotes to relate of dangers encountered and overcome in those brave days of old, when every male was brave and every female virtuous.

But these were the least of the dangers. It was thecontinual onslaughts on man and beast by the cunning and swift-tooted aborigines which were most feared. If the pioneer had to be watchful to guard against the attacks of wild beasts, he had to be doubly vigilant to guard against the attack, surprise, or ambush of a foe—brave, watchful, ubiquitous. The Hottentots of the Attaqua, Outeniqua, and T'zitzikama attended him on his travels, and wherever opportunity offered they would be ready for attack. The farmer might ensure his safety by laagering his wagon, and filling the spaces between his wheels with thorn bushes, but when it came to such a pass he was sure to lose his flocks.

The whole route was therefore a continual scene of strife. The pioneers were always successful in defeating their foes, but the Hottentots were often able to drive off the farmer's flocks, and sometimes even managed to capture his oxen. When beaten, they would melt away into the dark ravines of the surrounding mountains, only to reappear at localities more favourable to themselves, and there repeat their favourite methods of attacking and harassing the white man. Isolated cases occurred in which they were able to cut off and put to death the hunters who had strayed too far from the main body in their ardent pursuit of such game as would replenish the larder of the expedition. So also there are cases on record in which the Outeniqua Hottentots succeeded in carrying off children of the pioneers, who were never recovered, and who, it is surmised, have grown up among the blacks, and become entirely assimilated with them in habits, customs, and nationality. In fact cases are also on record in the Oudtshoorn district, (immediately North of the Kammatie Mountains, where, about fifty years after this trek, when white farmers first began to settle between the Zwart Berg and Kamnatie ranges), of half breds, men and women, among the native tribes, and it is accepted that they were the descendants of those young men and women captured by the Hottentots.

As the pioneers gradually settled down along Long Kloof, the contest between white and black waged very keenly at first. At one place some eight Dutchmen were surprised and slain by the combined Outeniqua and T'zitzikama tribes. Moordenaars Kuil (Murderer's Den), is the name of the locality to this day.

But gradually these tribes were subdued, and were either captured and made slaves, or became voluntary servants of the farmers, the men acting as herds and the females as the domestic servants. So complete was the subjugation of these tribes

that they lost every vestige of nationality. Their weapons disappeared, as did also their slight knowledge of art. No longer did they indulge in the elaborate carvings on their assegais, or on the heads of their arrows. The art of smelting copper was lost. They forgot the manner of dressing the skins which served them for clothing. Indeed, their very language was lost. The few words that now remain to us of the original Hottentot tongue are the names of a few of the prominent natural features, Outeniqua and Attaqua Mountains, Gamka River and Karroo (a name which the Dutch settler thought most appropriate for the dry and arid prairie lying between the Midland and Northern ranges). The Hottentot accepted without demur the position of bondman in a country which he had at first occupied as lord of the soil, and by reason of his lazy and inert nature he soon ceased to trouble about his language, customs, or nationality, and not only accepted with gratitude the food and clothing given him by his master, but also took the trouble of learning his language and of forgetting his own.

Of his religion we know very little. He did have some idea of a Supreme Being, but it was very faint. There was one insect to which he paid his devotions, an insect of the grasshopper tribe, still known as the Hottentot God. He had some idea of a future state, and was immensely superstitious. He was always in great fear of his ancestors' spirits, and would never by any chance visit the graves of any of his dead. He had some idea of legendary lore. Many are the legends extant, now told in Dutch, but originally of Hottentot origin, concerning the beasts of the earth, the lion, wolf, and tiger. To him the tortoise was the wisest, the fox the most cunning, the lion the strongest and the bravest, the wolf the most foolish and cowardly of all the animals. But his patriotic and national spirit, if he ever had any, entirely disappeared with his complete absorbtion as the white man's slave.

The influence of the Hottentot servants upon his conqueror can to this day be traced in his intense superstition, and to some extent in his language. Hottentot women became the nurses of the Boer children, and, in many cases, their foster mothers. Up to the age of ten they had complete control of childhood. They would frighten the lives out of the poor little ones with weird tales of spooks and evil spirits, and instilled into their minds so fixed a belief in the supernatural that it remained for life. Up to this day, in the backveld districts of the Colony, and still more so in the Transvaal and in Bechuanaland, the fear of ghosts is so great that neither men nor women will sleep alone in a dark room, or will even venture out of the house of an evening. Candles are kept alight in the bedrooms the whole night long. Every one has some tale to tell of an encounter with the spiritual world. This belief in ghosts is strengthened by Biblical stories; and if you question it, or try to prove how silly it is, or how impossible the common stories are, examples are immediately quoted from scripture to show that the departed are sometimes allowed to revisit this earth, and texts from scripture are adduced for the purpose of proving the orthodoxy of the fables and the heterodoxy of the sceptical. In fact, a man who does not share the belief in spooks is looked upon as a rank heretic.

Then as to the language. Naturally, the Hottentot having to unlearn his own and to pick up a highly inflexional mode of speech, got rid, so far as he could, of grammatical particles and verbal change, and, as he had most to do with the children of the Boer, these latter would of course speak the language their nurses employed, especially as it was untrammelled by grammatical distinction of gender and the various inflexions of the noun, adjective, pronoun and verb. We must remember, too, the absence of education. Schoolmasters were scarce, and when one was obtained he was usually a man who knew very little more than his employers. He was generally some army deserter or runaway sailor. The language of the schoolmaster, instead of counteracting the tendency to simplify a cumbrous language, would more often assist it. Besides, there was the natural tendency to get rid of inflexions so far as intelligibility would allow, so that the highly inflected language of Holland, which was spoken to a certain extent when the trekkers left Cape Town, Stellenbosch, and Paarl, arrived at an uninflected stage in the Cape Colony in less than a century, while in England a similar language, influenced by Dane, Norman, and French, had required eight centuries to bring it to the simple grammatical stage of to-day.

But the influence of the Hottentot was not only exercised on the grammar, but also upon the vocabulary. There were certain sounds they could not do away with, *e.g.*, the consonantal *sch*. What the Dutchman called a *schaap*, the Hottentot would persist in calling a *skaap*. Again, the *cht* was too much for the brown man. He could come no further than the gutteral *g*. Thus, *acht* would sound to him *ag*, *nacht nag*, etc. Then again the sounds given to the symbol *e* and *i* would mix themselves up in his speech, and when he had to say *in* he would say *en*, and *vice versa*. These little slips he would perpetuate in words of more than one syllable.

Had it not been for the counteracting influence of the predikant, who was bound to visit every family of his congregation once a year, and of the domine or zieken bezoeken (sick visitor), who did the rounds somewhat oftener, for the quarterly visit of the farmer to the nearest dorp for the Nachtmaal celebration, or for the preparation of the young people for the confirmation (when the Heidelberg catechism had to be thoroughly known),

the language of the Cape Colony of to-day would have been a thorough jumble of bad Dutch and Cape Hottentot. Luckily, too, the Dutch palate could not stand the Hottentot click, so that the vocalulary, though influenced in the pronunciation, remained Dutch.

Next to the Bible and Gezangen and Cateclusatie Book, there was one other volume to be found in the Boer's library, and that was a Dutch translation of the German *Uhler spiegel*, a term which has become proverbial in this country under the guise of *Ulspeel*, and is still extensively used as a name for one who is an egregious ass.

Unfortunately the influence of the Hottentot did not stay there. He was by nature a liar and a thief. He would rather, in the little events of everyday life, when he was in a corner, employ cunning and falsehoods to get out of his difficulty, than act straightforwardly and speak the truth. The greatest liar was the man most honoured in his tribe. This idea of morality was grafted upon the Boer youngsters, and unfortunately sprouted into an unhealthy stock. Hence the almost proverbial untruthfulness of the South African youth of to-day. To his influence, too, may be attributed the "slimness" of the Boer. Again, being cunning and untruthful, the Hottentot would naturally be suspicious. He merely judged others by himself, and could not possibly believe that there was such a thing as honesty or truth ; so that he was always on the watch for something quite the contrary to the actions and words of those with whom he came into contact. This trait could be only too readily implanted upon the young and tender mind of human frailty. The Dutch boy or girl was ever on the watch that Number One should not suffer, and that he should not be over-reached. So the tendency grew with the growing youth, and when the stage of manhood was attained, suspicion became so firmly rooted that it was impossible to be eradicated. This accounts for the suspicious character of the Boer farmer of to-day.

The moral influence of the Hottentot upon the trekker was thus decidedly bad, and one to be deplored ; but his services in the country, and the lessons he taught his master in his natural life and surroundings, were invaluable. He was intimately acquainted with the veld, which was his home. He knew the best country for grazing oxen, sheep, or horses. He could tell when water was to be found on the surface or below it, by signs known only to himself, but which he imparted to his favourite *klein baas*.

It is remarkable that the Hottentot became violently attached to the Boer children ; in fact, he lavished upon them all his affection to the detriment of his own brood, and to them he imparted the secrets of the veld. He was well skilled in the nature of the country, and could find his way across the pathless wilds by natural landmarks, and by the sun, and this knowledge obtained from observation he imparted to his foster child. He was a good weather prophet, too ; the chirping of the grasshopper, the flight of the *tors* (a kind of beetle), the habits of animals, the droop of the leaf, and so on, all had their significance to him as regards the weather, and from them he could foretell dry or wet, wind or storm. But his *forte* lay in tracking man and beast. This art was a necessity to him, surrounded as he was by his great enemy the Bushman, and dependent as he was upon game for his sustenance. This he communicated to his foster child until he also could track, although he never became quite such an adept in the art as his tutor. To the farmer, as well as to the Hottentot, this art of *spoor suving* (tracking), as he called it, was indispensable. Though not so dependent on game as his servant, yet hunting came to him as a relief, and varied the monotony of his otherwise humdrum existence, while game was a welcome addition and change to his larder. Then, as he was ever trekking, it was no wonder that his cattle or sheep would stray, and if he could not trace them they would be lost. But most of all was it necessary for him to know the difference of footprints, because wherever he went, there he was followed by his inveterate enemy the Bushman ; and if he could not tell the difference between the spoors of the Hottentot and Bushman, he would soon find himself ambushed, probably with a few poisoned arrows sticking into him, or, if not so bad as that, yet with a good number of his cattle lost for ever.

Last, but not least, was the knowledge of the herbs of the country, their medicinal qualities, and the production from them of simple remedies for various diseases. This the Hottentot possessed *par excellence*, so that far removed from what Dr. Dowie would call Doctors, Drugs, and Devils, the Hottentot was the one mediciner to whom the farmer could turn in moments of distress. And many and many of the homely remedies used to-day in the Dutch homes of the Karroo and in Bushmanland originally obtained from the Hottentot.

Thus the Hottentot, though the bondman of the Dutch farmer, played a great part in shaping his language, forming his moral character, and teaching him the mysteries of the veld.

If the Hottentot accepted his position as bondman to the Dutch, not so the Bushman—the Ishmael of South Africa. He followed the Dutch trekker wherever he went, but always as an enemy. Generally speaking, the Bushman was the mountaineer of South Africa. The great cavities which the elements in the course of centuries had hollowed out of the mountain rocks formed his home. There he brought his art of painting to the highest possible state of perfection of which he was capable. Along the slopes of the various mountain ranges he has left his mark

in the caves he was wont to inhabit. He used to varnish the walls with some compound of vegetable and animal matter, and on this smooth surface he would depict in red, yellow, and blue the animals, the ostriches, and, later, the men on horseback he had seen—perhaps, too, his wife and children. To-day there are still to be seen drawings of the ostrich, either fighting or "waltzing," or running from its pursuer the zebra; the various fauna of the country, the lion and the elephant, all of which represented sport and food for him. Here also are to be found the faces of men, women and children, and here, too, he kept an account of something or other—time, or the number of animals slain by him, or foes despatched. All along the walls are short lines in threes, coloured blue, red, and yellow alternately, all marked in a back-handed manner, such as a left-handed man would employ when writing, or drawing straight lines. Later (because fresher and better drawn) are the pictures of men on horseback, with tall hats and the never failing gun—the Boer, in fact, with whom he had for the first time come in contact. He must have held the Hottentot in the utmost contempt, for nowhere have we ever come across a painting representing the Hottentot. Whatever had anything of interest to the Bushman he depicted upon the walls of his cave, but we have neither seen nor heard of any picture of the Hottentot, though he used to wage fierce war upon him. The Bushman had no flocks or domesticated animals. His herds and flocks were the wild animals and the wild goats of the country; his poultry, the ostrich, paauw, korhaan, and other wild birds. Where his haunts are to be discovered there will be found innumerable shells of ostrich eggs. His palate must have possessed an element of fastidiousness! He was the real wild man of the South African wastes. He lived only upon animal food. Vegetables he eschewed as a diet, and he employed vegetable matter only as a poison for the barb of his arrow. Wild and fierce, nothing could induce him to alter his habits. Consequently, when he came into contact with the Dutch farmer, it was war for the mastery of the country at first, and war to the death afterwards. Never did he cease to harass his white enemy. As long as there was one of his own tribe alive, he never allowed himself to be captured.

On the slopes of the Attaqua mountains, near Robinson's Pass, there is a cave which is still shown by the Heyns family as the scene of the last stand made by some fifteen Bushmen who had been cornered by the Boers. There, with their bows and arrows, ensconced behind their hastily erected schantz, they offered a resistance until every one of them was slain. During these fights, by the way, it was their custom to place the ends of their bows between the great and next toes, and then to draw the strings with their hands to the utmost tension. At length, when no more arrows came whistling through the clefts in this schantz, the farmers cautiously approached until they saw the bodies of their enemies lying about stiff and stark. Then they rushed into the fortress, and found (so determined were these diminutive creatures to retain their freedom) that the remaining few had continued shooting with their bows and arrows till the flesh of the great toe and the first finger and thumb had been worn to the bone.

Sometimes it happened that a boy or girl was captured in infancy, but even then their wild nature would sooner or later break out. As soon as the boy could walk and run long distances he was off, whilst it was a saying among the farmers at that the Bushman girl would stay until she arrived at womanhood. When in captivity they were obstinate and sullen, never to be trusted for a moment, for, on the slightest provocation they would wreak their vengeance upon man, woman or child by attempted murder. Though far less numerous than the Hottentots, and lacking even their little organization, yet they continued to harass the farmer wherever he went. On the trek they were ever vigilant to ambush him, to cut off his herds, to waylay his hunters, to steal or kill his horses, or to slay his wife and children. They never carried away white babies like the Hottentots used to do on occasion. When they found a stray infant they killed it. Where the farmer settled, they would haunt the adjoining mountains with the object of plundering him if the slightest opportunity offered. Indeed these people seemed to be ubiquitous. Did he go out into the veld alone, as sure as sun-up the white man would be subject to the Bushman's attentions. Did he take sufficient men with him, his homestead would be just as certain of an unwelcome visit from these objectionable neighbours. Did he for an hour allow himself and dependants to sleep at night without a watch, that would be the time the Bushman would raid his kraal, and probably attack his homestead, or try to burn it to the ground.

To protect himself from these raids the farmer used to build a little cylindrical shaped tower between the house and kraal, loopholed all round and commanding views of both home and fold. Here he would spend night after night with his grown-up sons watching, and awaiting the attack of the Bushman. These "rondables" (round towers) as they were called, are still to be seen on the oldest farms in the Longkloof and in other parts of the country.

Anecdotes dealing with these attacks are numerous. On one occasion, for instance, an old farmer of the name of Louw happened to be the only male on his farm. His wife and a young daughter of about eleven had remained at home with the father. It was about five in the afternoon of the 13th October, when the old man, leaning over the lower half-door to enjoy the cool south-east breeze, was suddenly hit by a poisoned arrow just below the breast bone. He plucked out the

missile, snatched up his gun and fired a few shots at the skulking enemy. Finding his end drawing nigh, he went and lay down on his bed, where he expired within an hour of his having received his wound. His wife, according to custom, went into the kitchen to heat the night cap to put on the dead man's head. The foe, led by a runaway Bushman, on perceiving this, immediately stormed into the house. Rushing into the kitchen they despatched the wife by stabbing her with assagais, and left the young girl dead (as they thought) with thirteen assagai wounds. When they had ransacked the place they retired to the kraal to celebrate the occasion by gluttonous feasting. But an old Hottentot woman managed to get into the house unobserved. She found the master and his wife dead, but the nonnie (little miss), although severely wounded, still breathed. She caught the child up, wrapped her in a skin kaross, and managed to escape with her to a neighbouring farm, some thirteen miles off. Here the young girl recovered after a lingering illness, and, in the course of time, became the happy mother of a family of thirteen. Some of her grandchildren are still alive, and the very place where the great grandfather was shot is still pointed out by his descendants at Groot Toon, while the old homestead is kept in its original state by the present proprietor, a lineal descendant of old Klaas Louw.

All along the route of these old trekkers, too, where the old homesteads are preserved, Bushman relics are to be found. The race has disappeared, leaving no mongrel representatives behind them. They either died fighting, or, when they found themselves vastly outnumbered by their white and brown enemies, they fled northwards; but not one single instance is known where a Bushman remained in slavery, or a woman of the tribe lived on terms of intimacy with brown or white.

The only indications which show that these men had lived in that part of the Colony are the paintings which adorn the caves, and such relics as arrows, arrow-heads shaped like harpoons, and round stones, with a hole through the centre, which are still to be found in the old Dutch homesteads. The last-named implements must have been used as weights for the sticks with which they used to dig for roots for the vegetable poisons and pigments, or to raise up the anthills, in which they found their beloved rice—the larvæ of the white ant. These stones are of various sizes, some weighing a couple of pounds, others only an ounce or two. Others, again, were of intermediate weights. Probably the heaviest were used by men, both as a weight and as a weapon; the intermediate ones by the women in their digging process, whilst the smaller were possibly used by the youngsters as toys, when imitating the actions of their elders. Their arrows were made of bone, smelted copper, and iron. In warfare and in hunting these were tipped with vegetable poisons. What their pigments were made of nobody can say with any degree of confidence, but it has been noticed that wherever these paintings are discovered, there, too, will be found a clay like fuller's earth, of the three different colours commonly employed—red, blue and yellow.

One more characteristic shows the Bushman not to have been an absolutely wild man. He could paint, and he also possessed a knowledge of fortification. His haunts, when near to the residence of the white man, were cleverly fortified with rocks and stones, so that when pursued he would retreat thither, and there he would fight to the death when attacked. Some of these fortresses are still in existence, and are called schantzes by the Boers.

Socially, therefore, the Boer had nothing to do with the Bushman, and he has consequently disappeared entirely from the greater part of this country. His lasting influence on the pioneer, consequently, has been practically *nil*. True it is that when he dwelt in the land he caused the trekker to be vigilant, careful, and ever ready for a fight. He sharpened his white foe's knowledge of tracking, but not a word has he added to the Boer vocabulary, nor did he influence his character for good or evil.

Such were the difficulties and foes the old trekkers, going eastward, encountered in their march; but resolution, pluck, and sheer doggedness caused them in time to surmount every obstacle. But as the white man was steadily turning his face to the east, there was another race coming from the north-east, marching south and west along the coast, killing and laying waste whatever came in their path. This was the black man. The whites had found in the brown Hottentot and Bushman two very hard nuts to crack. The latter was a persistent enemy until he was exterminated. But now the trekker was to meet with a foe who was much more clever, who possessed splendid organization, a fervent martial spirit, and, added to all this, a determined bravery equal, or nearly so, to his own. Then when he thought to settle down peaceably, and live the easy and contented life of a border grazier, he found that he still had to fight the fight for the mastership over again, and this time with a foe who outnumbered him—fierce, cruel, merciless, and brave. It was with a fierce joy that he filled his pipe, cleaned and loaded his gun, and with Dutch phlegm prepared himself to meet his black adversary, safe in the faith that though the fight were hard and long, yet, being God's own, he must eventually succeed in driving the black man back from whence he had come, and occupying as his own the rich and fertile territories conquered and overrun by the aborigine.

It was in 1786, during the *regime* of Governor van der Graaff, that the white pioneer and the black marauder first met. Eight of the pioneers had gone on an elephant hunt, when they were suddenly attacked by the Gaika Kosas and were

slain to a man. Just then higher politics occupied the attention of the Colonists, and no immediate attempt at retaliation was made. The great question between the Orange party and the Republican French party in the Netherlands had reached even the furthest pioneer of South Africa. The monopolist *regime* of the Company, unjust taxation, and the overbearing behaviour of the colonial officials had disgusted the Dutchman. He was leading a free and easy life, and it seemed to him that the Republican party of Holland was synonymous with freedom. So the burghers, the corn and wine farmers, and the graziers were all ready to throw in their lot with that party. The Colony was practically in a state of revolt. They refused to pay taxes, and would have none of the officials appointed by the Company. To make matters worse, the Government was in the hands of a weak, vacillating invalid at a crisis when a strong, resolute man was wanted. He could only meet this serious state of affairs with empty menaces which he had no means of carrying out. Not only was he weak but insincere. The burghers were openly republican. In fact the Graaff-Reinetters had already expelled their landdrost and had declared themselves a Republic in alliance with the Republicans at home, and their example was followed by the inhabitants of the district of Swellendam. Governor Sluysken and his officials were Orangemen at heart, and, though pretending to be in sympathy with the patriots in South Africa, were only awaiting an opportunity to betray the country. The Colony was thus in a sad state in 1795. Revolt among the burghers and pioneers, treachery among the officials, want of money and troops to defend the country from threatened invasions by the black man on the eastern border, and from the great rival of the Netherlands from seaward, would seem cause enough to have plunged the country into total ruin and desolation.

The Governor tried, in his weak, vacillating way, to keep the black man out by entering into a treaty with Gaika. The Great Fish River was to be the eastern boundary of Dutch South Africa. No white man was to cross the boundary, except for the purpose of hunting or trade. The black man, too, was to be confined to the east of that river. This treaty was distasteful to both nations. The white pioneer had already treated these boundary placaats with disdain, and was ready to do so again. He had his wagon, which could at a moment's notice be turned into a fort by interlacing the spaces between the wheels with the spiked mimosa, while he and his sons were ever armed with their never-failing guns, and these the Kafir had been taught to load. With these factors in his favour he resolved to brave the terrors of the black's ferocity. But before he could do so the Kosas themselves settled the matter by storming across the treaty boundary and establishing themselves in the Zuurveld.

Fortunately for the whites, the Kafirs just at this time were divided into two parties. Gaika, the chief, was a young man. He had been reared by an uncle of his, called Ndlambe. When the young man assumed the reins of power Ndlambe felt his power gone. So he instilled distrust among the Kosas, especially after the treaty with Sluysken, and the great Gaika tribe was split up into two factions, one following the chief and the other Ndlambe. The result was a great battle in which Gaika was defeated, and he fled into the country of the Kei. He recouped his forces, however, and returned to defeat his powerful rival. Ndlambe with his followers then fled from Gaika's vengeance across the Fish River and westward into the white man's country, and established themselves in the Zuurveld. The Governor again had recourse to diplomacy. Instead of calling his burghers together and driving the Kafirs out, he sent an embassy first to the invaders, pointing out to them that they had broken the treaty, and asking them to re-cross the Fish River. Of course the answer was that it was fear of Gaika which kept them there. The Governor then approached the Kafir chief, who made fair promises about the policy he would pursue with regard to his rebel kinsman and his followers, if they would only return and be loyal to him. But, being Kafirs, they would not trust the honeyed promises of the Kafir chief, and so they stayed.

Just then, too, came the news that the Prince of Orange had fled to England, and had called upon the British Government to take possession of the Dutch Colonies in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the French. With this request the British Government was only too ready to comply. A great expedition was being fitted out to take over the Cape Colony. This news for a time brought something like union amongst the people. The Governor and his officials "talked big" about defending the Colony to their last drop of blood. The burgners allowed themselves to be persuaded of their sincerity, and enrolled themselves into a defensive force throughout the country. Everywhere preparations were vigorously carried on to keep the Colony Dutch, and anxiously were the burghers awaiting the arrival of the English. Even the Hottentots entered into the spirit of the thing, and, wherever the Boers had banded themselves into a defensive force, there too was a Hottentot levy to be found. The great point was first to settle the dispute with the English. The questions of Republic, Swellendam, and Graaff-Reinet were kept in abeyance, and no thought could possibly for a moment be given to Ndlambe's Kosas, or to a trek eastward of the Fish River. Every available man was wanted to defend the country from the seaward. At last the anxiously expected fleet arrived. The Governor was summoned to surrender the Colony to the English General, to be held for the Prince of Orange. Though at heart an Orangeman, Sluysken returned a forcible answer. He stated that he and his forces would not surrender

the Colony to the friends of the fugitive prince, and would defend it to the last man. We know what the result was. A few days after this magnificent reply Cape Town was in the hands of the English. Hardly any fighting had taken place. Such resistance as was made was offered by the Dutch burghers and their Hottentot levies. But though the capital had been betrayed into the hands of the English, the sturdy pioneers of the east were not going to submit so tamely.

The Graaff-Reinetters once again declared themselves a Dutch Republic in alliance with their Republican compatriots in Holland, and vigorously prepared themselves for resistance. Help was promised them by the French, and, as a matter of fact, the French frigate *La Perusc*, of 36 guns, accompanied by a barque, was despatched from Mauritius with ammunition, provisions, and clothing for the Republicans. These ships sailed into Algoa Bay, on whose shores was a small burgher commando waiting to receive the much needed supplies. But the English were on the watch, and, shortly after the Frenchmen had anchored, the *Dido* frigate sailed in. A sharp engagement followed and lasted a few hours. In the end the Frenchmen were obliged to haul down their flags, and the stores so much needed by the Republicans found their way to English arsenals. Though staggered by this severe blow, the Dutchmen would not acknowledge themselves beaten. Even after the Swellendammers had laid down their arms, these sturdy pioneers held out. The English generals, averse to shedding blood, endeavoured by forbearance and kindliness to bring these trekkers into line, but when they found success did not crown their efforts, they resolved to starve them into submission. No intercourse or trade of any kind was allowed between the Dutch west of Graaff-Reinet and the Republicans. A small force of soldiers was sent to patrol the borders, and so well were these measures carried out that hunger and want did what fighting could not bring about. Unable to obtain clothing, ammunition, or groceries, they at last submitted to the conquerors. This they did because a greater danger was threatening them. The Kafirs east and west of the Fish River were threatening a raid on a grand scale. Such an invasion could only be successfully stopped by the combined action of all the whites. Dutch burgher and English soldier would be required to the last man to stem the black tide which was about to roll westward. Unfortunately, too, some of the Hottentots had become dissatisfied. Headed by a renegade Hottentot of the name of Stuurman, they joined the Kafirs, and were getting ready for a grand invasion with the object of driving the white men into the sea. *Volens volens*, the Republicans were forced to submit. Even then there were some sturdy Dutchmen who would not come in, but, as they were in the minority, they at last submitted. Meanwhile the trekkers were reinforced by a number of their countrymen from the west, with the idea of moving eastwards across the Fish into the Kafir territory.

Attempts were again made to induce the Kafirs in the Zuurveld to retire beyond the river, and though threatened with expulsion by force, they refused to evacuate the country. Both negotiations and threats signally failed, and the Kafirs remained to work dire evil. The farmers, reinforced by their western compatriots, who preferred the free life of a grazier to the strict and monopolistic *regime* instituted by Lord Macartney, were finding themselves numerically strong enough to assail the Zuurveld Kafirs. Thus both parties were getting ready for a desperate encounter.

After Lord Macartney's return to England, and during the Governorship of General Dundas, the Graaff-Reinetters revolted once again. The immediate cause of the rebellion was the arrest of Adriaan Van Jaarsveld. A number of burghers attacked the escort that was conveying him to Cape Town, and set him free. This insurrection was soon stamped out by General Vandeleur. Whilst these events were proceeding, Ndlambe was on his way to attack Gaika, and whenever he came to a Dutch farm in the Zuurveld he burned it. The farmers fled before the horde of Kosas, and lost all they had. The track of the Kafir chief was marked by blazing farm houses, and, in some cases where the farmers were overtaken, by ghastly and mutilated corpses. General Vandeleur, not expecting to be attacked by the Kosas, was on his way back to Cape Town, after having received the submission of the insurgents. But at the Sundays River he was attacked by a Kafir chief named Conga. After a hot encounter, the Kafirs who fought very bravely, were beaten off, but twenty men, who formed a small reconnoitering party along the coast, were cut off, and every one of them killed.

This was the spark to the powder. Burgher commandos were called out. While they were assembling, the farmers were molested by the Hottentot allies of the Kafirs. For two months, while negotiations were carried on with Gaika, the commandos were kept under arms without being allowed to strike a blow. Dispirited at this inaction, the farmers returned to their homes. This was the opportunity of the Kosas. Under the impression that the white men were afraid of them, the Kosa hordes, aided by the Hottentots under Stuurman, Bozak, and others, burst into the Colony. Pillage and murder accompanied the raiders; almost the whole of that long valley down which the trekkers had made their weary way was devastated. The farmers and trekkers collected in laagers, wherein they were too strong for the Kafirs to attack; but the farms were left to the mercy of the natives. When they had nothing to gain by prolonging the contest, a peace was patched up with the Kosas, who retired to their haunts in 1798. This was the first of a series of wars be-

tween the white and black men—a war which, had the advice of the older Colonists been followed, would very likely have been the first and last.

Unfortunately, General Dundas did not know the treacherous character of his black adversaries, and in mistaken British philanthropy concluded a peace with the barbarians as if they were a civilized foe, trusting to the word of the wily Kosa. This unfortunate policy, so often condemned by results, so often pursued in spite of facts, was the cause of the sacrifice of thousands of valuable lives and the cost of millions of pounds. Worst of all, it was this policy of philanthropy which caused a feeling of distrust among the Dutch towards the English, and it grew stronger and stronger as time rolled on. It was found that the Government in England, guided by the opinion of white missionaries, turned Hottentot, like Van der Kemp and Read, were always so apt to consider the white man wrong and the black man right. This distrust at length grew into decided race hatred, which, sad to say, has not altogether died out in our own day. It was not only the Kafir who was treated as a wronged man, but the Hottentot too.

The hordes who had aided and abetted the late raid were collected by Dr. van der Kemp. A grant of land was given to them by the Government, near the mouth of the Zwartkops River. Here a mission station was established, with Dr. van der Kemp and Mr. Read as missionaries. These men seemed to think that to raise the Hottentot they should sink to his level. The former adopted Hottentot dress and customs *in toto*, the latter married a Hottentot woman. In their mistaken zeal they are credited with having encouraged the native servants to run away from their white masters, and represented the Dutch in the blackest colours to the Cape Governor. This caused the enmity of the Dutch farmer to mission work. The name of the station was Bethelsdorp. But these Hottentots did not stay at Bethelsdorp. They joined the robber hordes, and it was by these Christianized renegades, aided by some Kafirs, that old Commandant Tjaart van der Walt was attacked at Roode Wahl. At the beginning of the fight his eldest son, a young man, recently married, and father of a few months' old infant, was mortally wounded. "Father, take care of my wife and child," said the dying man. "Be comforted; God will provide for your loved ones," was the reply of the brave old leader. In his arms his son breathed his last. The next day the old commandant also met his fate. He was the ancestor of the Van der Walt family, amongst whom the name of Tjaart is held sacred.

So time rolled on, and the young men of the west ever set their faces towards the east when they arrived at the age of manhood. Thus was the state of affairs when, in 1802, the Peace of Amiens was proclaimed, whereby Cape Colony was handed over to the Netherlands, or Batavian Republic. Great was the joy of the Dutch Burghers when the news arrived. The Burghers had always been in sympathy with their Republican compatriots. A return of the days of good old Father Talbagh was hopefully looked for.

It was on the 20th February, 1803, that the English guards were relieved by the Dutch soldiers. The 1st of March, 1803, was observed as a day of general thanksgiving because the Colony was restored to the Dutch. The Batavian Republic had chosen two of their ablest men to guide the state of affairs in the Colony, General Janssens and Commissary General de Mist. In October, 1804, the latter made a tour through the country, to find out by personal inspection what the inhabitants in the districts further removed from the Capital had to complain of. On this tour of inspection he visited Bethelsdorp, and thence proceeded along the Zwartkops River on his way to Graaff-Reinet. At Graaff-Reinet he apportioned the boundaries of a new district, to which General Janssens gave the name of Uitenhage, a barony of the De Mist family. This name was given in honour of the Commissary-General. One of the chief complaints of the farmers was that they had to go so long a distance for the purpose of paying taxes and attending the Nachtmaal services. As this new district had been founded, it seemed advisable that a drostdy and a church should be built to meet the wants of the inhabitants. They selected the farm of a widow named Scheepers, on the Zwartkops River, and here, in 1804, was begun the drostdy which should form the nucleus of the important town that is now celebrating its first Centenary.

As we have devoted some attention to the old *regime* of the Netherlands East India Company, its purposes and ideals in the foundation of this settlement in South Africa, we might now conclude our introductory remarks with a brief review of the new Dutch *regime*, which, for its broad-minded policy and high-toned ideal, is worthy of study by the enlightened people of the twentieth century. The old policy of narrow monopoly, oppressive laws and taxation, corrupt officials, and insane strife for centralization, had passed away. The new *regime* of free trade, just laws and honest officials, of expansion and progress, formed a contrast pleasant to contemplate.

The very first duty of Mr. Commissary-General de Mist was to make himself acquainted with the circumstances of the country for the purpose of preparing a charter to be confirmed by the States General.

A Burgher Senate, consisting of a President and six members, was inaugurated. This number was afterwards reduced to five. At the end of every year one member retired, when a list of four names was handed to the Governor, from which he selected one as a successor. In the country districts the landdrosts were to be the chief repre-

sentatives of the supreme authority. Their powers and duties corresponded to those of the Civil Commissioners and Resident Magistrates of the present day. In their hands lay the protection of property and the liberty of the subject. They were to maintain peace and friendly relations with the aborigines beyond the border, and to safeguard the interest of the Hottentots as a free people. They were to take the preliminary evidence in criminal cases, to arrest criminals and to send them to Capetown for trial. The interests of slaves were to be looked after by them, and they had the power to punish their misdeeds. They could inflict imprisonment up to six months, and corporal punishment to a limited number of lashes. They also had to safeguard the interests of the Government by preventing the alienation of vacant lands, or crown lands, as they would now be called. To them was intrusted the duty of fostering education, agriculture, tree-planting; in fact everything which tended to the development of the country.

These men, therefore, had an important part to play in the growth of this Colony, and in keeping the stubborn race of colonial farmers within bounds. This was clearly realised by the Government, and men were appointed to the office, not by favour, but by merit, and during the brief period of the second Dutch Administration, it seemed as if the plan was going to turn out a great success. The arduous duties entailed upon the landdrost would have been too great a strain, and so, to aid him in successfully carrying them out, the old plan of a Board of Heemraden was resorted to. In each district six of the most intelligent, respectable, and trustworthy of the burghers were elected to form the council. At these courts the landdrosts presided. They held jurisdiction in farm boundary disputes, questions concerning the impounding of cattle, suits connected with auction sales, and even in civil cases in which the contested amounts did not exceed three hundred rix-dollars. They performed the duties of coroners. They had charge of the making, and keeping in repair of main roads, and generally of all matters carried on at the expense of the district. In this court we see the origin of our present Divisional Councils.

When a new district was formed, the Governor appointed the Heemraden, but at the end of each succeeding year the two who had served the longest retired. The Board then supplied the Governor with a list of four names, from which he selected their successors. These courts were held monthly, in the Stellenbosch and Tulbagh districts, and quarterly in the outlying districts. In their judicial capacity they were subjected only to the High Court of Justice. In criminal cases they had to report to the Attorney-General. These boards of the Burgher Senate and Courts of Heemraden were to be the first step towards a modified form of representative institutions, somewhat similar to the Cape Parliament before the introduction of Responsible Government. They used to be the political schools in which the respectable portion of the inhabitants were to be taught the art of governing the country, of properly controlling its finances, and of making it worthy of the Free Charter which Mr. de Mist was drawing up for the sanction of the States Senate. The Administration of Justice also received particular attention. A High Court of Justice, composed of a President and six members, was instituted. They were to be capable and learned jurors, and independent of the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government. All these judges were to be appointed by the States Senate, and could only be removed by them. They held office as long as they conducted themselves honourably and impartially, but upon the least taint of bribery or corruption could be summarily dismissed. In this court we see the origin of the Supreme Court of our time. And the members appointed by the State Senate were in every way as eminently legal lights in their day as the members of the Supreme Court are at present. To them were submitted the cases which the Landdrost and Heemraden could not adjudicate, or which were beyond their control. These formed a Court of Appeal, too, and in criminal cases they were to confirm or reverse the decisions of the Lower Courts. The greatest freedom was allowed in this court, even in cases of dispute between the Government and subjects. The decisions were absolutely untrammelled by any interference, and the judgments strictly upheld. The great idea of Mr. de Mist, himself a judiciary of no mean order, was to keep the fountain head of justice pure, so that there could be no excuse for any miscarriage of justice in the lower tribunals by citing examples of its failure in the High Court. And he took care that this ideal should be realised. So successful was he in this particular that the Court became a legacy to the country, and, in its administration of justice, an example to the chief legal courts of our day.

The inhabitants of the Colony then were, generally speaking, stern Calvinists. The Hollander had brought his religion with him, and to maintain it in its purity he had brought with him two books to whose teachings he tenaciously held—the Bible, and the Heidelbergsche Catechisms. He formed the first pioneer, and, removed from all social and religious intercourse in the wilds of South Africa, his ignorance of modern theological speculation and his lonely life in the desert made him only the more convinced that his form of worship was the only correct one. Conservative by nature, it would have taken a deal of argument to prove to him that his position was wrong, had he been placed in a position to argue. But the circumstances of his life made it simply impossible to convince him. Then came the influx of the French Huguenot, who had given up his all for his form of worship. The influence exercised by this race only strengthened the Dutch farmer in his firm belief of the absolute inviolability of Calvinism

Gradually, however, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and Jews had drifted into the country. Malays also, introduced by the Dutch themselves to act as grooms, cooks, and domestic servants, formed a fair percentage of the population. To all these races and sects the bigoted Calvinist refused permission to worship the Deity according to their lights. To remedy this state of affairs Mr de Mist issued a proclamation of Religious Toleration. All religious societies which worshipped an Almighty were to enjoy equal rights and protection under the law of this Colony, and no one was to be exempted from public office on account of his religion. All religious communities could freely enjoy their religious rites, after having obtained the sanction of the Governor. In Capetown the religious toleration was an accomplished fact. The Roman Catholics and others were allowed to worship God in their own way without let or hindrance, so that De Mist's ordinance met with no opposition there ; but unfortunately the country bigots could not be brought to view freedom of worship so favourably. They believed themselves to be the chosen of God, that their form of worship was the only correct one, and all others wrong, so that it would not only be an error, but a grievous sin to tolerate other forms of worship, and that it would be followed by dire consequences from an insulted and irate Deity. Therefore the Ordinance met with a storm of opposition from the country. No chapel, church, or building for worship, except for their own creed, would they allow to be built in the country towns. What the result of this opposition would have been it is, of course, impossible to say. It is just possible that it might have caused serious trouble, but before that could happen the Cape had changed rulers for the fourth time.

It does sometimes happen that a ruler is further advanced in his ideas of liberty than the ruled. It certainly was the case with the Government of the Batavian Republic. Mr. de Mist, the chosen commissioner of the States General, had been appointed because of his broad and enlightened ideas. On the question of religion he certainly was head and shoulders above the colonists, so also was he on the matter of education. Did he strive for toleration in religion, so, too, did he endeavour to inculcate the system of undenominational State education. His idea was to establish a number of State-aided schools throughout the Colony, in which children would be taught general knowledge without being forced to attend the religious classes of Bible and Catechism teaching. This system met with the greatest opposition, and the antagonism reached from Cape Town to the furthest farmhouse. The people were determined that rather than send their children to such a school they would not send them to school at all. To eliminate the Bible and Catechism, the psalm and hymn books, from public schools, would be a sacrilege such as could not fail to bring down upon their heads the just wrath of Almighty God. Meeting with such strenuous opposition, Mr. de Mist was obliged to drop his idea for the nonce. This very scheme was in after years taken up by Sir William Herschel, and on it he based the modified one of undenominational education which obtains in our State-aided schools to-day. There is nothing new under the sun.

In other matters, too, this great man left his mark upon the country. He it was who induced the Dutch Government to experiment with the merino sheep on a large scale, and carried out his scheme to the immense profit of the Colony. Viticulture, fruit culture, agriculture, horse and cattle breeding—in fact everything that tended to make this country a great and prosperous community—received his attention, and, backed by the wider and more enlightened policy of the Batavian Republic, gave a tremendous impetus to the progress of South Africa, and great promise of a vigorous branch of the old Netherlander stem. But before all these schemes could be carried out to perfection the new *regime* of the Netherlander had again been changed, and once more the Union Jack waved over South Africa.

The Introduction to "Uitenhage Past and Present" would not be complete without a brief reference to what may justly be considered an incident of local historic interest, considering that the district of Uitenhage was the scene of the greater part of the sufferings to which the persons more particularly interested were the victims. We refer to the wreck of the *Grosvenor*. Mr. D. C. F. Moodie, in his "History of the Battles, &c., in Southern Africa," has three long and very graphic descriptions of this terrible disaster, from which we cull the following brief statement :—

The *Grosvenor* sailed from Trincomalee on the 13th June, 1782, homeward bound, with a large crew and a number of passengers, and was wrecked on the 4th of August following on the South African coast above the Umzimvubu, near St. John's River. The greater part of the crew, and apparently all the passengers, amongst whom were some British officers of rank, several ladies, and a number of children, succeeded in reaching the shore, only to encounter misery and destruction in worse shape than that they had first escaped. Of all the souls on board only nine of the European crew and some of the Lascars succeeded in reaching Cape Town. The shipwrecked people divided themselves into several parties, and started on their long march through an unknown and difficult country, inhabited only by the savage Kafirs and myriads of wild animals, in the hope that one at least of the parties would succeed in winning through. The story of the sufferings of the various parties through their long and wearisome march, of the deaths through sheer fatigue, starvation, and exposure, of various of the travellers one by one, of the attacks and general unfriendliness of the natives, of the fear of lions and other

wild animals, makes terrible reading, and shows the loss of the *Grosvenor* to have been one of the most terrible calamities, in its fearful results, the history of which has been handed down to us. Two expeditions were fitted out by the Government to go in search of the survivors, but they only succeeded in finding seven Lascars and three of the white crew. It is asserted, however, and believed by some, that three of the young lady passengers, daughters of General Campbell, were captured by Kafirs and compelled to become wives of one of the chiefs. And, indeed, the chief Faku was commonly supposed to be a grandson of one of the Misses Campbell. As opposed to this theory, however, Mr Jacob Van Reenen, who commanded one of the expeditions above referred to, states in his journal, published eight years after the wreck, that all the European women landed from the wreck perished soon afterwards. The account of Van Reenen's journey through the district teems with incidents of contact with lions, elephants, sea cows, etc., which shows that in those days the bush along the south coast was a veritable hunter's paradise. It was not until the 15th January, 1783, more than five months after the wreck, that a few members of one of the parties reached the farm Zwartkops, owned by one Daniel King—the first European they had met since the wreck.

Jan Antony van Riebeek,

First Governor of Cape Colony under the Dutch Administration

1652-1662.

THE FOUNDERS OF UITENHAGE.

1790 to 1804.

IN the course of the foregoing Introduction we have traced from their common source the many "rills of circumstance" that eventually led to the founding of Uitenhage. We have seen how the men of the west, dissatisfied the lines in which their lives were cast, turned with their faces eastward and travelled steadily onwards until they finally decided to settle down. We have seen how the large companies gradually thinned as family after family detached themselves and took up their abodes along the route. In this way a succession of farm-houses sprang up between Cape Town and the remoter regions of the east, forming, as it were, the base or foundation upon which the Colony was to be built; for, when further expansion in the direction of Kaffraria was found to be impossible, the tide turned northward and flowed on until it had crossed the Orange and Vaal Rivers. So much, then, for the general trend of events that subsequently led to the founding of Uitenhage; and we may now turn from the consideration of the general to that of the particular.

The Founders of Uitenhage

In the year 1790 Governor Van der Graaff received a petition signed by Gert Scheepers, Gert Van Rooyen, Christoffel Kock, Janse Van Vuuren, Solomon Vermaak, and J. Boyce, requesting that they might be allowed to proceed on a hunting expedition as far as the eastern border. This innocent request was readily granted by the Governor, and the adventurers set out upon their travels. Although the pursuit of game was nominally the object of the expedition, their real aim was to spy out the land and to settle down in peace. They journeyed onwards for many weeks, and, although their hardships could not be compared with those of the trekkers who had been the first to penetrate into the wilds of the east, their progress was nevertheless slow and difficult, notwithstanding the fact that something resembling a road had gradually been created. This became worse and worse the further it proceeded, and when the last farm-house was ultimately passed—somewhere in what is now known as the Humansdorp district—the track came to an end, and from that moment our five travellers became the pioneers of Uitenhage. They patiently cut their way through the bush, and at length found themselves on the summit of Red Hill, which stretches along the bank of the Zwartkops. The scene which opens out before the spectator as he stands upon this rise is one of placid beauty, and one can easily imagine how the eyes of the travellers glistened when it suddenly burst upon their view. The sparkling river, unpolluted in those days by the woolwasheries which were destined to be erected on its western banks, was carefully explored for miles in either direction, and the valley was discovered to be fertile, and possessed of great possibilities both for stock and cereals. The adventurers decided to obtain the Governor's sanction to settle here, and with this object they returned to Cape Town. They had previously parcelled out large tracts of land between themselves, and when they reached the capital they sought His Excellency's permission to take up their abode in the Zwartkops Valley. Van der Graaff granted his sanction, but only did so conditionally. The Sundays River was then the boundary of the Colony, and the Kaffir Chief, Conga, was established on the further side of it. He was a most undesirable neighbour, but if people cared to settle down in the vicinity of his kraal they were welcome to do so. The land was at their disposal, so far as the Government was concerned, but if the savages disputed their right to it they must make the best of it, for, in short, they could expect no protection, and must take all risks. This must have been rather disappointing, but perhaps it was expected. At all events it neither damped the ardour of the adventurers nor cooled their resolution. They made the necessary preparations, and in a few weeks' time everything was ready for the long journey eastward.

It is not difficult for one who has lived in South Africa to picture the scene. The wagons are loaded and inspanned, the women are bidding their friends a last farewell, the men are similarly occupied, while the natives who are to accompany the expedition have gathered together in animated little groups, chattering, gesticulating, and talking with their fellows as only a native can. At last the signal is given. The women mount the wagons and take their places, the road is clear, everything is ready. The whip cracks, the oxen swerve unsteadily, and then strain forward together; the wagon creaks and jars and moves off amid cheering and hand-waving. The other vehicles follow in close order, and yet another trek has started for the mysterious regions of the east. What must have been the thoughts of the friends who were thus separated? Who could tell whether those who were being borne away by the slowly retreating wagons would ever again re-visit the scene of their recent departure? Those stoutly built and carefully loaded wagons would have to be unpacked and taken to pieces time and again, lowered down precipices in fragments, transported across the bases of dozens of kloofs, laboriously dragged up the steepest ascents, and put together again on the opposite summits. At other times, too, they would be drawn up in laager, the wheels and interstices would be filled with formidable thorn bushes, the women and children would be ensconced in comparative safety in the hastily formed square, while the men would take up their positions and face the savages with their deadly muskets. In what stirring scenes would those wagons take part! In short, they would speedily become to their occupants not only vehicles, but homes and fortresses as well. And so, amid a thin cloud of dust, they disappeared over the eastern horizon, never perhaps to be seen again, but carrying with them some of the bravest and most indomitable people that have ever lived in this land of Good Hope.

As may be imagined, one trek was much the same as another in those times, just as there is but little variation in the railway journeys of to-day. Certainly there was more incident, and each company would meet with its own adventures. But these were mostly all of the same character, and were chiefly made up of troubles caused by natives, wild animals, flooded rivers, and dangerous roads. But at last, after weeks of weary travelling, the Gamtoos River was crossed, and the track, which had been roughly cut through the bush by the pioneers, was entered upon once more. As the little body of adventurers neared the site of their future homes one can picture their eagerness to [illegible]nt. And when at last a halt was called on the brow of Red Hill, it does not require much imagination to conjure up the spectacle of the group that would gather round the leader of the expedition and gaze in silence upon the pleasant valley of the Zwartkops, which, to them, was indeed the Promised Land. Here they were to live, to work, and, in all probability, to die. What would have been their thoughts could they but have pierced the veil of a hundred years and have seen, in place of the sullen bush which covered the earth from the river bank to the slopes of Cannon Hill, the broad, well-made streets, the noble trees, the comfortable houses and stately mansions, the churches and stores, the public halls and offices, the ever growing Loco. Shops, the net work of railway lines, and all the various factors that have gone to make this the seventh town in Cape Colony to-day?

But no such visions troubled the founders of Uitenhage. They were probably conscious of little else than a sense of relief that the journey was ended, and of a desire to commence the congenial occupation of making a home for themselves with the least possible delay. And so the way-worn wagons would descend to the valley, and in due course of time the tracts of land chosen by the various families would be occupied by their new owners. They gradually settled down, and the months and years went by, bringing with them the usual variations of storm and calm, good fortune and bad. Thus it was that the people who were the first to take up their abode in the Zwartkops Valley arrived at the site of the future town of Uitenhage in 1790. With their subsequent lives we shall deal more fully later on, for we must now pass over a period of ten years.

J. A. Uitenhage De Mist.

The Peace of Amiens was concluded in the latter part of 1801, and the Batavian Government, in 1802, appointed Commissary-General Jacob Abraham Uitenhage De Mist to take over from the English authorities the "Colony of the Cape." We have dealt with this matter, however, in page xii. of the "Introductory," and need not again enter into details regarding it. Suffice to say, therefore, that he made a tour through the Colony in 1804, and was accompanied by his daughter, Augusta. His son acted as his secretary, and he had with him a clerk named Michorgus, an escort of Light Dragoons under the command of Lieut. Odmer, a cadet named Le Sueur, Dr. H. Lichtruskrin (Professor of Natural History), a courier, a surgeon, and the usual retinue of servants, slaves, wagon drivers, etc. Miss De Mist had a companion in another lady who accompanied the expedition, which lasted for six months. The whole party rode on horseback, the baggage being conveyed by the wagons that accompanied the travellers.

Fort Frederick.

We must not omit to state that in August, 1799, a wooden building was erected on the hill, where the Donkin Memorial now stands, in Port Elizabeth, and a small stone redoubt built. This was named Fort Frederick and a garrison was established. Captain Abbot was in command of it in 1804, *i.e.*, at the time De Mist and his party reached this locality.

Uitenhage: Past and Present.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Part I.—The Decade, 1804-1813.

WHEN Commissary-General De Mist reached the Zwartkops Valley he found the four pioneers referred to in the previous page, settled within a few miles of one another, and it was impossible for him not to admire the excellent choice they had made. So struck was he with the natural advantages of the locality that he arrived at a decision the real importance of which could not be then estimated by anyone not possessing the power of prophetic vision. He resolved to establish a town, which would be the centre of its own district. The first procedure was the formation of a drostdy. This term must not be confused with that which is applied to the ancient building which still stands at the east end of Caledon Street.

The word was really *drossaardschaap*, the literal translation of which is "Bailiwick." The *drossaardschaap* in question was at first under the control of the one at Graaff-Reinet, just as the Magistrate here would have the control of Kleinpoort. This was in October, 1804.

The site for the proposed town was the next matter that engaged the attention of its founder. Where the Loco. Works now stand there was a charming little homestead, surrounded by flower gardens, shady orchards, and breezy fields, and occupied by the widow of the valiant Gert Scheepers. A curious building it was, and many of our present townsmen will remember it perfectly. Consisting of two rooms, it was constructed of mud and unburnt brick, the roof was thatched, and the walls were ingeniously loopholed in order that the occupants might defend themselves from the not infrequent attacks of natives. These loopholes formed a curious characteristic of the building, and were quite scientifically arranged. This historic building was afterwards reconstructed, and one of our Mayors (the late Mr. Edward Dobson) subsequently resided in it for some years. The Railway authorities, however, purchased the ground in 1892 or 1893, and the homestead, which may be said to have given birth to Uitenhage, was demolished in order to make way for the ever-growing Loco. Works.

The Birth of Uitenhage. Such was the latter history of the house, and we may now return to the days when it played so important a part in the founding of Uitenhage. It was occupied, as we have said, by the widow of Gert Scheepers, and a shrewd old lady she must have been. De Mist had set his heart upon acquiring her farm as a site for the new township, and he obtained his desire on certain conditions. The sum of £400 (present currency) was to be paid down, and Mrs. Scheepers stipulated that she should be allowed, not only to live in her cottage rent free as long as she lived, but that she should also be permitted to graze her cattle on the commonage, so far as it might extend, for the same period. These terms having at last been agreed upon, the transfer took place, and thus, in about November, 1804, exactly one hundred years ago, the town was founded.

The Mother of Uitenhage. But it would ill become the historian to leave this branch of his subject without further reference to the grand old lady who might fitly be described as the mother of Uitenhage. She accompanied her husband from Cape Town; and when one considers the hardships of such a journey, the manifold perils and dangers to which travellers were exposed, and last, but not least, the prolonged discomfort and hardships which had to be endured, it becomes all the more wonderful that any woman, however robust, could ever have contemplated such an undertaking. But Mrs. Scheepers, from all accounts, not only did so with equanimity, but on numerous occasions rendered valuable assistance to the men who comprised the party. Strong, fearless, and resourceful, she must have been a woman amongst women even in those days. When the little settlement was formed in the pleasant valley of the Zwartkops, Gert and his wife settled down to the varied occupations that lay nearest them. One might be pardoned for lingering long over their strenuous lives, and in comparing them with those who built up the walls of Jerusalem with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. They had countless foes to contend with, and the daily struggle must have been an exhausting one.

In 1799, for instance, a bloodthirsty horde of Kaffirs swooped down upon the lonely cottage without the slightest warning. Assegais and arrows quivered in the walls, frenzied shrieks and war-cries rent the night air, and the red light of many torches shed a lurid glare over the scene. Every living animal was either destroyed or driven off. There were but three men in the house at the time, and they kept up a fire for two nights and three days, with some intermission, Mrs Scheepers being employed in loading the muskets At length the Kaffirs managed to set fire to the homestead. The three gallant fellows and Mrs Scheepers then fled to an unroofed outbuilding, but before they reached it several shots had passed through Mrs Scheepers's dress. This garment she exhibited to the last day of her life. By some means they were able to elude the vigilance of their would-be destroyers shortly afterwards, and to escape into the thorny recesses of the Gamtoos River Bush. The Kaffir chief, a brave ruffian named Conga, was in command of the marauders, and his tribe formed one of the greatest elements of danger the Zwartkops settlers had to fear. They dwelt on the eastern side of the Sundays River, and their ancient *habitat* is to this day known as "Conga's Kraal." After a time, however, the Kaffirs were gradually beaten back, and the settlers repaired the damage that had been done to their property. While dealing with this subject, we might mention that the first engagement between Kafirs and British troops took place in the Uitenhage division in 1799. General Vandeleur had left a small garrison at Graaff-Reinet, and was marching the remainder of his troops to Algoa Bay, where they were to embark for Cape Town. Suddenly they were surrounded by a host of Kafirs under Conga, with whom were a number of white renegades, amongst whom was a lawless ruffian farmer of herculean proportions, named Coenraad Buys, who had married Ngqika's mother. The assailants were defeated, although the nature of the ground was in their favour. Their losses were heavy. The General then continued his march to Algoa Bay, where he erected and garrisoned a small fort for the purpose of securing that important position against a foreign enemy. He then took ship for Cape Town with the remainder of his men. Mrs. Scheepers was eventually credited by her savage neighbours as one who possessed supernatural powers, by reason of her having dramatically prophesied a rainstorm which, luckily for her, visited the locality at the right time, and this fortuitous circumstance freed her from many disagreeable visitations. She was described by one writer in 1830 as then being about 90 years old, enjoying tolerable health, and residing with her son-in-law, Mr Van Staaden, at his farm in the Winterhoek. She had six children—four sons and two daughters.

Susannah Elizabeth Scheepers. One of these, Susannah Elizabeth by name, was the second European female born here, and she died in 1870 at the age of 84. She was married in 1814 to the late Mr. Christian Michael Luyt, who died in his 48th year. Their grandson, Michael Coenraad Luyt, died here on the 13th May 1904, at the ripe old age of 88, while their great-grandchildren and their great great grandchildren are still flourishing in Uitenhage to-day. We are able to reproduce the likenesses of the first-named couple. Other branches of the Scheepers' family are equally well known in these parts; in fact, their ramifications seem to have no end! But while Mr. and Mrs. Scheepers farmed on the original site of the town, there were other families in the neighbourhood, and most of their descendants have remained here to this very day. How many Uitenhagers are there who have not heard of the Van Vuurens? Janse van Vuuren settled at the farm "Kruis River," about 3 miles from his friend Scheepers, and it has ever since been occupied by his descendants, unto the third and fourth generation. Kruis River is famous for its fruit and market produce, while the grand old orange groves form a sight that is well worth seeing, and its owner is one of our best known local farmers. Christoffel Kock chose the fertile "Narro."

SUSANNAH ELIZABETH SCHEEPERS

CHRISTIAN MICHAEL LUYT

A Growing Village. When the township was once created it began to attract a population. Families whose farms were situated some distance from it built "town houses" for themselves, a few *winkels* began to arise here and there, a small internal trade sprang up, and from then onwards Uitenhage has progressed—slowly, it is true, but none the less steadily. It is interesting to look through the documents and letters bearing upon this period, for one finds in them dozens of names that are familiar to everybody who has lived here for any length of time. Amongst them may be mentioned Luyt, Elemals (a land-surveyor) Buchensroder, Marais, Van Niekerk, Captain Van Kerken, Benecke (an ancester of Mrs Frost) and Krog. These people must have settled here between 1804 and 1810.

Land Regulations. The method of forming the township was an excellent one. Ground was given free on application, in building or garden plots not exceeding one morgen in extent, on the condition, however, that the grantees should have a substantial building erected upon it within six months. This system worked well; so satisfactorily, indeed, that it was retained by the English Government when the country finally passed into the hands of Great Britain.

Dragoons Billeted in Uitenhage. In the year 1806 a regiment of dragoons was stationed in Uitenhage, but very little is known concerning what took place. The soldiers were billeted upon the farmers at high rates, and the rations to be served out to each man and horse daily were 1¼ lb. bread, 1 lb. meat, 9 lbs. barley, and 7 lbs. chaff. For this the Government paid the sum of 5/-, so that the civilians did not do badly.

The Cost of Gunpowder. It appears from the *Gazette* that about this time the farmers could only procure gunpowder from the Government, but as the price at which it was sold was eventually considered too low, the landdrosts were instructed to raise it to 1s. 1½d per lb. This caused a considerable amount of grumbling, but there was not very much to complain about after all, for the price to-day is 3s. 6d.

Small-pox Epidemic. About 1807 an epidemic of small-pox broke out, and a crusade of wholesale vaccination was commenced. But there was no medical man in Uitenhage, and the work was performed by laymen and

Government officials. It is amusing to note the happy-go-lucky manner in which "doctors" were allowed to practise in those days. A Board met in Cape Town, and perfunctorily examined such candidates as chose to present themselves. These were divided into two classes—town and country. Those who came through the ordeal satisfactorily were given a licence to practise in Cape Town, while the others were only allowed to exercise their skill in the country. It was certainly rather hard upon those who did not dwell within the favoured regions of the capital! Amongst those who obtained "Cape Town diplomas," as they were called, were Drs. Mackirill, Biccard, and Leisching—all of whose names are familiar to Uitenhage people. The small-pox epidemic was finally stamped out in 1812, after having raged intermittently for five years, as it appears that Thursday, the 11th October, was appointed to be observed in the churches throughout the country as a solemn day of thanksgiving for the cessation of this dread disease.

Licences. At this stage we might give the licences that obtained in the early days of last century. They were as follow (the sums being reduced from rix-dollars to our present system of coinage) :—

Auctioneer	..	..	£11 5 0
Butcher	..	..	3 15 0
Baker ..	..	..	3 15 0
General Dealer	..	..	1 10 0
Permission for a foreigner to remain in Colony.	..	..	0 7 6
Permission for any body to leave the Colony	..	..	0 1 6

The Value of Money. The monetary system then in existence was very different to our own, and consisted of eight coins. These were the—

Doubloon, valued at	..	..	£4 0 0
Johanna .	..	..	2 0 0
Guinea	..	..	1 2 0
Ducaton .	..	..	0 9 6
Pagoda	..	..	0 8 0
Spanish dollar	..	..	0 5 0
Engl. Shilling .	..	..	0 1 0
Copper coin	..	..	0 0 2

The Postal Service. Although Uitenhage was still the veriest dorp, it nevertheless possessed considerable relative importance in those days, when all towns were small when compared to their present size. Where we now reckon their population by thousands, our ancestors reckoned by scores. A postal service was inaugurated, and it appears to have been managed remarkably well. In fact it compares favourably with that of to-day, as the following will show.

Uitenhage was 93 hours distant from Cape Town—that is to say, from a postal point of view—and the route was split up into stages. The contracts for carrying the mail between Long Kloof and Uitenhage were in the hands of five farmers. These were Stephanus Ferreira (Long Kloof), J. Petrus (Kromme River), J. L. Rautenbach (Comgha), J. Meyer (Gamtoos River) and J. S. van Niekerk (Van Staaden's River). The time allowed between Van Staaden's River and the Drosdty was three hours—the time allowed at the present day in doing an 18 miles' journey.

From Uitenhage to Graaff-Reinet thirty hours was the scheduled time, and the journey was divided into two stages, the first being from the Drosdty to Zoutspans Nek (near Kleinpoort), and was in the hands of a farmer named Stultz.

Postal Rates. The Capetown mail came along the coast, as above stated, and if it left at midday on Monday morning it would arrive in Uitenhage at 9 a.m. on Friday. The service was a fortnightly one. The postage on a letter consisting of a single sheet (envelopes had not been invented) was 9d., and 1/2 on a double sheet. For packets not exceeding ½ lb. in weight, the sum of 1/6 was charged.

Runaway Slaves. The records of the early days of Uitenhage are decidedly meagre, but if one looks through the *Government Gazette* published during this particular period he will be rewarded by many little sidelights on the conditions under which people lived during the first ten or fifteen years of the nineteenth century. Slavery, for instance, was still in existence, and we shall treat more fully upon this subject a little later on. But about 1809 a number of slaves escaped from Capetown and made their way to Uitenhage. As an inducement to them to go back again, the Government generously guaranteed them a free pardon—provided they returned to service within four months from the date of the notice. Whether they took advantage of this noble offer deponent sayeth not, but it is scarcely likely that they fell in with the idea.

Civil Servants. The number of holidays observed in Cape Colony forms a frequent source of complaint amongst employers to-day, and it is therefore fortunate for them that they did not live a hundred years ago—in the reign of George III—when the following days were strictly

observed: New Year's Day, Queen's Birthday (18th January), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Ascension Day, King's Birthday (4th June), Whit Monday, Prince of Wales' Birthday (1st August) King's Coronation Day (22nd September), Christmas Day, Boxing Day and the usual year-end holidays! The hours for civil servants, by the way, were from 9 to 2.

A Government "Grave Diggeress." In the course of our Introduction, we have referred at considerable length to the monopolies created by the Netherlands Company; but perhaps one of the most quaint appointments ever made by any Government is gravely set forth in an issue of the *Government Gazette* published in 1811. It reads as follows :—

NOTICE

is hereby given that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with the advice of his Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint Mrs Deman grave diggeress in the room of Mrs Ley, deceased.

One might be pardoned for wondering whether this lady had the Royal Arms put up over the door of her house to indicate her appointment under the Crown!

Martial Law in Uitenhage. In 1811, owing to the depredations of the Kafirs, martial law was proclaimed in the districts of Uitenhage and Graaff-Reinet on the 8th October by Sir John Francis Cradock, Governor of the Colony. Lieut.-Col. J. Graham, of the Cape Regiment, was appointed commander-in-chief for the administration of martial law, and he was invested with full power to call out the commandoes whenever occasion might require. He made Uitenhage his head-quarters, and in consideration of the town's having been made a military centre, it was declared to be a sub-drostdy in 1812, and the deputy landdrost was ordered to reside there. The hostilities with the Kafirs were at length brought to a close, and out of compliment to Colonel Graham, who had done such excellent work, the town on the Zuurveld was named after him. The district in which it was situated was named Albany by General Cuyler, after the State in America from which he originally hailed. Martial law was still in force here in 1812, but there was considerable dissatisfaction expressed at the way in which the Government defrayed the cost of the war. Uitenhage and Graaff-Reinet had already paid 20,659 rix-dollars—*i.e.* about £1,550, but the fighting had been done by the very people who had to contribute that amount. Eventually the Government admitted the injustice of forcing the burghers to fight with one hand and to pay for the cost of the campaign with the other. Uitenhage and Graaff-Reinet were relieved of the tax, and it was distributed among the other districts as follows :—Cape Town 15,000, Stellenbosch 12,000, Swellendam 10,000, Tulbagh 10,000, and George 4,000 rix-dollars each.

Changes. We need linger no longer over the Kafir war, for that is a matter of Colonial history; and it is with the rise and progress of Uitenhage that we have to deal in this particular work.

In 1811 we find that Mr Auret was appointed District Clerk to the Landdrost, and he was the first to hold this office. He was succeeded shortly afterwards by Mr Knobel, and when he was promoted he was followed by Mr J. C. Bergh, who remained here for a very long time.

At this period it was brought to the notice of the Government that persons imprisoned for debt were being half-starved, in consequence of the non-existence of any regulation regarding their maintenance. Creditors were therefore ordered to pay the magnificent sum of fivepence a day for every person detained under their processes. The maintenance fee has since been raised to 1 -.

Up to 1813 it had been a common practice among shopkeepers to keep their stores open on Sundays, but in that year it was thought advisable to put an end to this evil, and a proclamation was therefore issued forbidding Sunday trading. Certain exceptions, however, were made.

Wanted: A Church and Powder Magazine. Next year, it appears from the *Government Gazette*, tenders were invited for the building of a church and a powder magazine in Uitenhage. It was rather a curious combination, but it is not upon record whether any tenders were submitted at the time.

The First Church. At all events it was not until 1817—three years later—that a church was founded, and the Reverend Cornelius Mol appointed as its minister. This historic place of worship served its purpose for many years, but when the present edifice was formally opened on the adjacent piece of ground, in 1843, it was turned into a dwelling-house, and is now occupied by Mr. F. H. Luyt.

Houses Built over Graves. It may not be particularly pleasing to people who dwell on the west side of Church Street—*i.e.*, on the D. R. Church side—to learn that their houses are built on a graveyard, but it is a fact nevertheless! The ground between the residences of Mr. F. H. Luyt, in Caledon Street, and Mr. S. J. van Niekerk, in Cannon Street, and extending broadwise to Church Street, was for over twenty years the only cemetery in Uitenhage. On several occasions during recent years bones have been dug up in yards and gardens. Some little time ago a certain family living in Church Lane received a decidedly gruesome reminder of the ancient use to which their plot of ground had been put. The floors were not planked, and one morning the breakfast table—rather a heavy piece of furniture—suddenly subsided several inches, much to the amazement of the people who were sitting around it. Subsequent investigations showed that a large grave had once been dug on that spot, and, judging from the number of bones discovered, several people must have been buried in it. The mouldering remains were collected, and re-interred in another place. This may sound like a romance, but the story will be corrobrated by anyone who was residing in Uitenhage at the time. The cemetery would seem to have extended even to the other side of the street, for when Mr. G. Barnes' building was burned down, in 1900, human remains were discovered among the foundations.

The Founding of the District. It must not be forgotten that in the early days the district was very much larger than it is now, and as we have already dealt with the town, we must now revert to the district itself. In 1800 the Colony was divided into four divisions, the eastern boundary being the Fish River. These (in order of size) were named Stellenbosch, Graaff-Reinet, Swellendam, and Cape. Graaff-Reinet extended from the Gamka River on the west to the Great Fish River in the east, and from a point near the Orange River to the sea. Swellendam stretched between Cape Agulhas and the Gamtoos, and from the Zwartebergen to the sea. De Mist was in Graaff-Reinet in February, 1804, and as the inhabitants of the field-cornetcies of Zwartkops River, Bushman's River, Bruintjes Hoogte, Zuurveld, and Zwarte Ruggens were distinctly turbulent, and had been severely harassed by the natives, he issued a proclamation on the 7th of that month cutting away those field-cornetcies from Graaff-Reinet and forming them into a new district, the landdrost of which was to be a military officer, who would have a body of troops under his command. Mr. Andries Stockenstroom was promoted from Swellendam, where he was secretary, to the post of landdrost of Graaff-Reinet, while the Commandant of Fort Frederick (Captain Alberti) was created landdrost of Uitenhage on the 22nd of April. He gave it the name of "Uitenhage" on the 25th of the month. On the 4th of October it was decided to add to the new district the field-cornetcies of Winterhoek, T'Zitzikama, Kromme River, and Baviaan's Kloof.

Wild Animals. Although there were no wild animals poisoning clubs in those days, the Government found it necessary to issue rewards for the destruction of vermin, and the following were the prices decided upon :—

Tiger	£1	17	6
Wolf	1	10	0
Wild Cat	0	1	6
Munshond	0	0	9
Hawk	0	0	9

Wild animals were remarkably plentiful at this period. The bush teemed with them, and, as is well known, game of all descriptions abounded. But the continual warfare waged upon the latter by farmers, natives, and beasts of prey, soon reduced their numbers, and it was afterwards found necessary to restrict the annual slaughter as far as possible. The "big game" also came in for a large share of the hunter's attention, and many species were exterminated. Nomenclature is not always a safe guide; but where the Dutchman had the naming of a place one can be sure that he chose a designation that was at once apposite and indicative of some characteristic peculiar to the spot. Thus, it becomes certain that at one time hippopotami existed in what is now the Humansdorp district, for the town which is its centre is situate near a river named the Zeekoe. This word, literally translated, signifies "sea-cow," or hippopotamus. But none are to be found there to-day. The trekkers were not strikingly original in their choice of names—as witness the vast number of Driefonteins, Wolvekraals, Commandokraals, Olifantskops, Koodooskloofs, and so forth—but their system of nomenclature always seemed to emphasise some particular feature of the place, and when we find a "Quaggas Kraal" in the Uitenhage district we can rest assured that the old trekkers had seen some of these beautiful animals in that locality. Similarly, the name of the farm Wildepaardeberg, situate in the Elands River range, immediately suggests the existence of zebras in that part of the district. As a matter of fact these gaily-striped quadrupeds are still to be

found there. One was captured not long ago by Mr. S. P. Ferreira, of Slanghoekfontein. It managed to make good its escape, however, but was re-captured by Mr. Tom Young and sent to England And so the names of the various farms are in many cases of considerable value to the historian—more especially when he has to deal with the animal life of the country. But as a general rule these designations are the outcome of some chance incident. Take Slanghoekfontein, for instance, and consider the composition of the name. The trekkers have settled down, and have already explored the area which they claim to be theirs by right of occupation. The farm is still unnamed. A horse or an ox is missing, and a native is detailed to recover it.

"I last saw the animal," the patriarch would explain, "in that *hock* (or corner) formed by two spurs."

"What two spurs, baas?"

"Where we came across those *fonteins*. You know well enough. You remember the place where we killed the snake?"

"Oh, where we killed the *slang!* There in the *hock* where the *fonteins* are? The Slanghoekfontein?"

"Yes. Now, go up to the 'Slanghoekfontein,' as you call it, and see if you can find any traces of the animal."

And so, almost unconsciously on the part of its owner, the farm received its name.

Wolves in the Streets. It is frequently stated that wild animals were in the habit of entering the village at night for the purpose of drinking at the vlei which formerly existed at the corner of what is now John Street. This is incorrect. Uitenhage, in those days, was completely surrounded by water: in fact it was a veritable island. One could not enter it from any direction without having to cross water, and it is therefore absurd to suppose that carnivora would risk their lives by visiting the John Street vlei when they could drink as much as they wanted in the safety of the veld. But it is nevertheless a fact that wolves (a species of wild dog) used to prowl about the streets at night, and this probably gave rise to the stories we have taken some pains to discount. The cause of their undesirable visits was a very simple one. Up to the late fifties butchers were allowed to slaughter sheep and oxen in front of their shops, and this disgusting practice naturally attracted beasts of prey. The wolves, in short, acted as the scavengers of the town, for when night fell they would gather round the spot where the killing had taken place, and devour the whole of the offal that remained. That they then slaked their thirst at the vlei is quite natural; but when we read of troops of elephants travelling over the veld, crossing the belt of water which encircled the village, and marching solemnly along the street that led to a muddy little pond, we accept the tale with a good deal of reservation! It is certainly true that the body of a hippopotamus was discovered in the vlei in question, but that does not add anything to the *canard* in the way of proof.

Elephants. One of the most troublesome foes the settler had to contend with was the elephant. These huge animals would frequently visit his farm in herds, destroy the crops, and do considerable damage. The unfortunate people sometimes had to flee for their lives. On a farm situated a few hours' ride from the town, five elephants suddenly made their appearance. A young man who happened to have his gun with him at the time rashly fired at the animals, without doing them any harm, however. But the brutes were furiously enraged by the noise, and charged madly at their assailant. He was accompanied by two natives, and the fugitives made for an outhouse some little distance away. They reached it just in time, but it only availed them shelter for a moment. The foremost elephant charged at it with resistless force, the wall bent inwards and collapsed, bringing down part of the roof with it. The two natives were buried beneath the *debris*, but the young farmer succeeded in scrambling unperceived through a window on the other side and in making his escape. The elephants, meanwhile, were busy with the bodies of the unfortunate natives, and anyone who has had the slightest experience of these monsters will easily imagine how fearfully they mutilated their victims.

A few years ago the late Mr. Attrill was hunting in the Addo Bush, where, as is well known, elephants are still plentiful. To be accurate, he had been requested to do his best to shoot a certain "rogue elephant" which was constantly doing considerable damage to the farm. Mr Attrill came up with the animal, but his foot slipped, he fell to the ground, and in a moment the brute had seized the unfortunate man by the upper half of his body, knelt on his legs, and literally tore him in two. But although such anecdotes might easily be multiplied, we shall leave the subject of elephants for the present, returning to it later on.

A Historical Document. As we have entered into details regarding the founding of the district, the re-production of the following proclamation, which, so to speak, is the original baptismal certificate of Uitenhage, will be of interest. We take this opportunity of thanking the Speaker of the House of Assembly for according us his permission to have it photographed specially for this work. The translation appears below:—

Publicatie

JAN WILLEM JANSSENS, Gouverneur en Generaal en Chef over de Colonie de KAAP DE GOEDE HOOP, en den Ressorte van dien, aan alle, die dezen zullen zien of hooren lezen, SALUT! doet te weeten:

Dewyl nademaal de Commissaris Generaal van het Bataasch Gouvernement Mr. J. A. DE MIST, by Publicatie van den 7 February dezes jaars, de Colonie van Graaff-Reinet heeft gesplitst in twee deelen of Landdrostdyen, waar van het Noordelyke den naam van Graaff-Reinet heeft behouden, terwyl omtrent het Zuidelyke, bevattende de Veld-Cornetschappen van

Zwarte Ruggens.
Bruintjes Hoogte.
Boschjesmans-Rivier.
Zuurveld.
Zwartkops-Rivier.

benevens een gedeelte van het Drost-Ambt van Zwellendam, aan de *Zitzikamma* en *Kromme-Rivier*, by het 4 Artikel der gem. Publicatie aan den Gouverneur en Generaal en Chef is overgegeven, om aan deze nieuwe Drostdy den naam te geeven, en te bepaalen, op welke plaats de Landdrost zyne vaste residentie zal moeten houden.

ZO IS 'T, dat de Gouverneur en Generaal en Chef heeft besloten, aan het nu voegen voorsz. van de Colonie Graaff-Reinet afgescheiden District te geeven, zo als Hy daar aan geeft by dezen, den naam van

UITENHAGE.

De provisioneele bediening van hetzelve Drostampt word by dezen opgedragen aan den Capt. L. ALBERTI, commandeerende het Fort Frederik aan de Algoa Baay, aan wien mede is geadmitteerd, om met assistentie eener Landdrostelyke Commissie, uit te zien naar een geschikte plaats, welke tot de Residentie van den Landdrost kan worden vastgesteld.

En word hier van by dezen aan het Publiek de nodige communicatie gegeven met last, aan alle In- en Opgezetenen van voorm. District, om den Capt. L. ALBERTI in het uitoeffenen zyner functien alle eer, respect en hulpe te bewyzen, welke de Gouverneur en Generaal en Chef tot het nut en dienst van den Lande bevonden heeft alzo te behooren.

Op dat niemand hier van ignorantie zal mogen pretenderen zal deze worden gepubliceerd en geaffigeerd, alomme daar men gewoon is publicatie en affixie te doen.

Aldus gedaan in Zuid-Africa aan de Kaap de Goede Hoop, den 25 April 1804.

De Gouverneur en Generaal en Chef,

J. W. JANSSENS.

PUBLICATION.

JAN WILLEM JANSSENS, Governor and Chief over the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope and the Jurisdiction thereof. To all who shall see this or hear it read greeting. [illegible] maketh known

THAT WHEREAS the Commissary General of the Batavian Government Mr. J. A. DE MIST by publication of the 7th February this year divided the Colony of Graaff Reinet into two Magistracies the northern one of which received the name of GRAAFF REINET whilst regarding the southern one consisting of the Field Cornetcies of Zwarte Ruggens, Bruintjes Hoogte, Bosjesmans River, Zuurveld, Zwartkops River together with a portion of the Magistracy of Swellendam, on the Tzitzikamma and Kromme River by the 4th Article of the said Publication, it is left to the Governor and General and Chief to give a name to this new Magistracy and to determine at which place the Magistrate shall have his fixed residence.

SO IT IS that the General and Chief has decided to give to the District separated from the Colony of Graaff Reinet and He herewith gives, the name of UITENHAGE.

THE provisional administration of the same Magisterial office is herewith entrusted to Captain L. ALBERTI commanding Fort Frederick at Algoa Bay who is also instructed with the assistance of a Land Commission to look out for a suitable site which can be decided on as a Residence for the Magistrate.

AND herewith the necessary communication hereof is made to the Public with instructions to all citizens and inhabitants of the forementioned District to render all honour and respect and assistance to Captain L. ALBERTI in the performance of the duties of his office where the Governor and General and Chief has found such as in the interest of the country.

THAT [illegible] may plead ignorance of this it will be published and posted up wherever it is customary to put up a publication or placard.

Thus done in South Africa at the Cape of Good Hope the 25th April 1804.

The Governor and General and Chief

J. W. JANSSENS.

De Mist's Title. De Mist was deprived of his title by Napoleon Bonaparte, but it was afterwards restored to him by the King of the Netherlands, who granted him letters patent authorising the resumption of the title in question. De Mist did not forget the district which was named after him, and about 1824 he sent an authentic copy of these letters patent to the landdrost. It was filed among the records of the district, together with a very handsome covering letter from Government. These documents, however, were ordered to be sent to Capetown about five years ago, so that we are unfortunately unable to obtain access to them. The same applies to other documents of local interest, which were removed from here and deposited in the archives at the Capital.

This brings us to the end of a most interesting decade—the first in the history of Uitenhage. In the course of the preceding pages we have endeavoured to place before the reader some idea of the town as it was in the first ten years of its existence. As may be imagined, the sources from which we derived our information were few and far between, but the further we proceed the more numerous and interesting do the details become. The town did not make very rapid progress at that time, it is true. In fact, it was the merest dorp; but it grew at about the same relative pace as the other centres in Cape Colony. It must be remembered that the Capital itself was then about the size of the Uitenhage of to-day!

Part II.—The Decade, 1814–1823.

TEN years after the founding of Uitenhage by Commissary-General J. A. Uitenhage De Mist, Lieut.-General Lord Charles Henry Somerset was appointed Governor of Cape Colony. He was allied to some of the most noble families in Great Britain, and was undoubtedly an able and efficient administrator. His faults were many, it is true, and he has been charged with a considerable number of grave indiscretions, but he has left his mark upon South Africa nevertheless. About the beginning of his term of office, regular postal communication was established between England and the Cape, fast sailing vessels securing the Government contract to carry the South African mails once a month; but as the potentialities of steam had not then been discovered, the arrival of these vessels was somewhat irregular. The time occupied by the first mail packet (the *Eclipse*) was nearly sixteen weeks, and she arrived at Cape Town on the 13th April, 1816. The letter postage was fixed at 3s. 6d. per quarter-ounce, 3d. per ounce being charged on newspapers. The mail contract at present is sixteen days; there is a weekly service, and the letter postage is 1d. per half-ounce. Times have changed since Lord Somerset was Governor of Cape Colony!

Civil Service Changes. Mr. J. J. F. Roselt, a name well-known in Uitenhage, was appointed here on the 28th April, 1815, as Sworn Translator, while on the 12th May, in the same year, Mr. J. C. Brugh, to whom we referred in the last chapter, was removed to George, and replaced by Mr. C. Allen. Captain Jacob Glen-Cuyler, of the 59th Regiment, had been sent to Fort Frederick in 1806 to take over Captain Alberti's duties there as Commandant and Deputy-Landdrost of Uitenhage.

A Dark Episode. We now come to one of the most unfortunate episodes that ever occurred in South Africa, namely, the rebellion of 1815, which terminated with Slachter's Nek. Uitenhage and Uitenhage men played a prominent part in this dreadful affair, and we must therefore refer to it at some length, even although the general facts are fairly well known. At this period the Boers were in a perpetual state of irritation, and some of them were daily growing more and more ripe for mischief. There were two causes of discontent. The administration of certain land laws was the first, but the second and chief reason for ill-feeling was that complaints made against them by Hottentots were investigated by different courts, and they were occasionally fined for punishing these people. It was the ill-treatment of a native, says the late Judge Cloete, that set the whole Eastern Province in a blaze, drove a great mass of the population into open rebellion against their Sovereign, and brought the heads of several respectable families to an ignominious death, thereby causing an alienation from, and bitterness of feeling towards, the local Government, which a lapse of very many years has not been able entirely to eradicate.

The criminal session having opened at Graaff-Reinet, Landdrost Sir A. Stockenstroom acted as *ex-officio* prosecutor, and informed the Court that Frederick Bezuidenhout, a farmer living in the Baviaan's River Ward, had refused to appear before the Court of Landdrost and Heemraden on a charge of ill-treating a Hottentot. Furthermore, he had threatened to shoot the messenger, or sheriff, if he again ventured to approach his premises. He was well-known as a daring and desperate character. It was also certain that he was in the habit of consorting with Kafirs contrary to the law, and there was therefore a probability of his enlisting their aid against the officers of the law should the case be continued against him. The Landdrost consequently applied for a "personal summons" (as it was legally termed) ordering him to appear in person before the Commissioner. This application was granted by the Court, and, taking into account the facts as above set forth, the messenger whose duty it was to deliver the summons received an order authorising him to call in the aid of the nearest military force should he think it necessary, or apprehend any danger.

When the messenger reached Bezuidenhout's neighbourhood he learned that some Kafirs had been seen at Bavian's River, and he therefore applied to the officer in charge of the Boschberg Post (now Somerset East) for assistance. Lieut. Rousseau at once proceeded, with twenty men of the Cape Corps, to Bavian's River Poort, where the recalcitrant farmer resided.

The bush in those days was of the most impervious nature in that part of the country, and the little force at once saw that their task would not be an easy one if much resistance were offered. They at last arrived at Bezuidenhout's residence, and found him fully prepared to meet them. He had as an ally a powerful half-caste, and these two worthies seeing the squad approaching, took up a position behind the walls of a cattle kraal. They were armed. The rebels called upon the force not to advance another yard, for the first man who did so would be shot. Nothing daunted, Lieutenant Rousseau threw his men into extended skirmishing order, whereupon the rebels, seeing that they would speedily be surrounded, fired a shot, dashed into the house, escaped through the back door dived into the thick bush, and disappeared entirely. It was over an hour before the fugitives were discovered, when their hiding place was betrayed by the glint of the sun upon the muzzles of their guns. The lair proved to be a cave situated some distance up the precipitous cliff which formed one side of the kloof. It could only be approached by one man at a time. Lieutenant Rousseau, undeterred by the furious threats of the fugitives, pluckily scrambled up the krantz until he reached a spot a few feet above the entrance to the cavern. He advised Bezuidenhout to surrender, assured him of personal safety if he would accompany the messenger of the court on the summons it was his duty to serve upon him, but the only answer he received was that Bezuidenhout would never surrender or be taken alive.

The Lieutenant then employed an exceedingly ingenious stratagem, the result of which was that the cave was suddenly stormed by two parties, one of which threw up the projecting rifles while the other shot at the rebels. Bezuidenhout received a mortal wound in his head and breast, but the half-caste was uninjured. He was taken into custody, and the rebel shortly afterwards expired in his cavern. It was then found that the place had been stored with a number of guns and a large quantity of ammunition, thus showing that Bezuidenhout had been long prepared for a similar emergency.

Night was now approaching, and the surrounding bush was teeming with the Kafirs with whom the deceased rebel had maintained daily intercourse, in defiance of the strict laws then existing forbidding all such intercourse under the severest penalties. Lieutenant Rousseau was therefore anxious to retire out of these dangerous kloofs before dark, and he consequently retired as quickly as possible.

The half-caste was tried at Graaff-Reinet—some authorities, by the way, say that Bezuidenhout had two men with him—but was acquitted on the ground that he was not a free agent. The "Commission of Circuit," as it was called, then proceeded to Uitenhage, where several important cases were to be heard.

While these were proceeding, a mounted officer, who had left Grahamstown early in the morning and ridden hard all day, arrived in town the same evening with the astounding news that the farmers of the Somerset and Tarka districts had rebelled and had taken up arms. Captain Andrews' post along the northern banks of the Fish River was threatened. Major Fraser, Commandant of Grahamstown, had already proceeded to the scene of operations. Such was the startling intelligence which burst upon the little community of Uitenhage that quiet summer evening.

Colonel Cuyler, who held the dual office of Landdrost of Uitenhage and Commandant of the frontier, was a man of action. Within sixty minutes of the arrival of the news his horse had been saddled, and he was swiftly speeding northwards. Such use did he make of his spurs that forty-eight hours had not elapsed before he thundered up to the house where the rebel farmers were gathered for the purpose of formulating their plans. He dismounted, strode into the room, informed them who he was, remarked that he had heard all about their behaviour, and demanded a good and sufficient reason for it. The astonishment of the malcontents may be imagined when it is remembered that they did not know that the news of their outbreak had even had time to reach the ears of the authorities. And yet here was the fiery-tempered landdrost of Uitenhage not only in possession of the general facts but already in their midst. They soon explained the state of affairs to him.

It appeared that when Lieutenant Rousseau and his men had left the farm, Bezuidenhout's relations and friends had assembled to bury him. At the funeral Jan Bezuidenhout, a brother of the deceased, became fearfully excited, and in impassioned

language harangued those present on the illegality which had been committed on his dead brother. This address met with the greatest sympathy, and it was resolved by those who were present at the obsequies that revenge should be taken. What Colonel Cuyler replied is not recorded, but history shows that the farmers had decided to attack the nearest military post and to drive the British forces from the Frontier. Later events proved that a resolution fraught with worse consequences could never have been conceived. However, the rebels decided to plunge, and they cast about for the best method of achieving their object. Circulars were sent to the neighbouring farmers, while Cornelius Faber, who had married into the Bezuidenhout family, offered Ngqika the most tempting promises if only he would join the rebels in attacking their common foes and driving them from the Frontier. But Ngqika was not a bird to be caught with chaff, and he replied in the most evasive terms. He found himself between two fires, and wished to see which way the wind blew. He undertook, however, to consult his councillors, and to give the matter his most careful consideration. This was unsatisfactory, but in the meantime circulars were being spread broadcast throughout the Eastern Province. The addressees were carefully selected; but "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley," and one of these documents providentially fell into the hands of a loyal farmer, who immediately communicated with Mr. van der Graaff, the Deputy Landdrost of Cradock. Immediately after receiving it, this official forwarded the paper to Captain Andrews, with instructions to take prompt measures. Captain Andrews obeyed his orders, and sent out a military party. The result was the arrest of Hendrik Prinsloo, of the Boschberg. This man, together with Jan Bezuidenhout, had been nominated by the rebels as their commander, and his capture was therefore of the greatest importance. He was taken to Andrews' Post, and the little fort was immediately strengthened, in view of a probable attack. Nor were these preparations in vain. Two days after Prinsloo's arrest a squadron of nearly three hundred Boers rode up and demanded not only the immediate surrender of the station but the release of the prisoner as well. It was at this time that Faber arrived from Kafirland with the news of Ngqika's wavering policy. Some vacillation was thereby created in the Boer ranks, and in the meantime Major Fraser succeeded not only in forcing his way into Andrews' Post, but also in sending a despatch to Colonel Cuyler.

The result we have already stated. The Landdrost of Uitenhage rode post haste to the scene of operations, and astonished the leaders of the campaign by informing them that all their plans were fully known and that they would be met by signal punishment if persisted in. He demanded the reason of the rising, and, as we have stated above, was speedily made acquainted with the facts of the case. He refused, however, to uphold the action of the leaders, and declared that he would communicate with headquarters. He was as good as his word, and the following trenchant proclamation immediately appeared in the *Government Gazette*:—

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency General the Right Hon. Lord Charles Henry Somerset, etc., etc.

Whereas it has been reported to me of certain turbulent and rebellious subjects of the Districts of Graaff-Reinet and Uitenhage having assembled in arms upon the most frivolous pretences, and have proceeded to acts of violence, to the disturbance of the public peace and tranquillity of the Districts aforesaid, and whereas such daring outrages and rebellious conduct render it necessary for the safety and protection of the Magistrates and of the well disposed inhabitants of Graaff-Reinet and Uitenhage, that the officer commanding his Majesty's troops in those parts, Lieut.-Col. Cuyler, of the Cape Regiment, should be vested with full power to suspend the civil authority (if need shall continue) and enforce martial law in all such parts of the districts aforesaid as shall appear to be concerned in any act or acts of rebellion, or hostile to the public peace. I do therefore hereby authorise the aforesaid Lieut.-Col. J. G. Cuyler, of the Cape Regiment, commanding on the frontier, as well as any and everyone of His Majesty's officers who have or shall have separate commands, to punish after a conviction before a Court Martial all persons acting, aiding, or in any manner assisting in any rebellious act, according to martial law, either by death or otherwise, as to him or them shall seem expedient for the punishment and suppression of all rebels, of which all of His Majesty's subjects are required to take notice.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Given under my hand and seal at the Cape of Good Hope this 25th day of November, 1815.

(signed) C. H. SOMERSET.

By his Excellency's command,

(signed) H. ALEXANDER,
Secretary.

But before Colonel Cuyler took action a worthy field commandant, named William Nel, volunteered to go among the rebels and endeavour to turn them from the noose into which they were running. For two days he fearlessly continued to visit them, and as he gradually began to open the eyes of some of the men his presence in the camp was swiftly attended with imminent personal danger to himself. At length the headmen, Bezuidenhout and others, seeing that his influence was commencing to have considerable effect on the minds of some of the farmers, called the whole host together, and ordered them to stand in a circle and take a solemn oath to remain faithful to each other until they had expelled the tyrants from the frontier.

When Colonel Cuyler heard of this he despaired of bringing about submission by peaceable means, and he sallied forth from Andrews' Post early next morning at the head of a troop of the 21st Light Dragoons, while a troop of loyal burghers under Commandant Nel marched out with him. They soon came up with an advanced post of the rebels, but on the order being given to advance upon them about thirty, who formed the left wing, suddenly threw down their arms and surrendered. The remainder fell back upon the main body, and the rebel force retired with their wagons and oxen into the wilds of Baviaans River, where it was almost impossible for a small force to dislodge them.

What was known as a "drive" in the recent Boer war was then decided upon. The glen was surrounded by the troops under Major Fraser, Landdrost Stockenstroom, and the Deputy Landdrost of Cradock. The rebels were deftly enclosed in the net that had been woven for them, but some contrived to escape during the night by paths and passes of which only they had any knowledge. The ringleaders, however, declined to accept any terms, and actually contrived to extricate themselves from their dangerous position. They managed to reach the Winterberg, immediately bordering upon Kaffirland, where they hoped to be safe; but Major Fraser, with a squadron of the Cape Corps, was at last successful in completely ambushing them in a deep kloof. Again rejecting all terms, they hastily made preparations for a desperate defence. Esconcing themselves behind the wagons, they kept up a steady fire on the troops. They killed one Hottentot and wounded another, and it was not until Bezuidenhout had been shot and Faber and his wife both wounded that the whole thirty-nine were captured.

Guarded by a strong escort, they were brought to Uitenhage and committed to prison—the same building that exists to-day. Fifty or sixty other rebels were subsequently traced and confined in gaol. A special commission was appointed in

UITENHAGE GAOL, IN WHICH THE REBELS WERE CONFINED.

Cape Town to try the offenders. A preliminary enquiry resulted in the selection of thirty-nine persons out of the whole party as the most culpable. The commission arrived in Uitenhage in December, the Judges being Messrs. W. Hiddingh and P. Diemel. Mr. B. van Blokland was secretary of the court, Landdrost Cuyler acting as prosecutor. The proceedings opened on the 16th December, and the prisoners pleaded guilty of high treason and waging war against His Majesty. The trial was a long and painful one, but the evidence was conclusive. Judgment was delivered on the 22nd January, 1816.

The sentence of the court was that the whole of the prisoners should be conveyed to the spot on Van Aardt's farm where the oath had been taken, and that there, on the 9th of March, Hendrik Prinsloo, Cornelius Faber, William Krugel, Theunis de Klerk, Stephanus Botma, and Abraham Botma suffer death by hanging. All the others were to witness the execution, and then to undergo various degrees of punishment by fines, transportation, and banishment for life, according to the various degrees of their proved culpability.

The judgments were sent to the Governor, Lord Charles Somerset, for his *fiat*. It was generally anticipated that he would commute the capital sentences on the six men, and thus make manifest the mercy and clemency of a paternal Government. But Lord Somerset did not avail himself of this opportunity of endearing British rule to the hearts of the people. Had he done so, the whole of the subsequent history of Cape

Colony would probably have been very different to what it is. He wrote the fatal word "*Fiat*" across five of the sentences, and the men were doomed. Krugel's life, however, His Excellency was pleased to spare, and he was ordered to be transported for life. Great indeed were the sorrow and sympathy expressed for the unfortunate men, and bitter was the feeling aroused among the Dutch in Cape Colony by the stern harshness of the Governor. Up to the last, however, hopes were entertained that he would eventually reprieve the rest. But, as time went on, these hopes gradually waned, until at last the day appointed for the executions drew near.

On the 6th of March, 1816, a melancholy procession set out from Uitenhage. The whole of the prisoners were drawn up, handcuffed, placed in vehicles, surrounded by a strong mounted escort,

THE COURT HOUSE WHERE THE PRISONERS WERE TRIED

and driven away. Colonel Cuyler was in command of the party. In the meantime a gallows had been erected on the spot where the rebels had previously ranged themselves in a circle and taken the oath to be true to one another. It was not until the melancholy procession came in sight of this ominous structure that hope completely died, for from the fatal beam there depended five ropes. This showed that no reprieve had been granted, and that the law was to take its course.

Accounts of the actual execution differ somewhat. We give two of them. The first version, which is given by Mr. D. C. F. Moodie, seems to be the more probable :—

"With perfect resignation and firmness, under the spiritual guidance of a worthy minister, the Rev. Mr. Herold, the five culprits simultaneously mounted the fatal ladder, from which, at a given signal, they were to be launched into eternity. But even then they were doomed not to find an end to their misery. From the hasty and imperfect manner in which the scaffold had been constructed, it proved insufficient to bear the weight and dying struggles of these five powerful men thus thrown off. The whole fabric gave way, and the unfortunate men, slowly recovering from the asphyxiated state into which they had been partially thrown, crawled up to the officer whose painful duty it was to see to the execution of the sentence, calling aloud for mercy. This plea was earnestly supported by all their friends placed without the circle, who, viewing it as a signal dispensation of Providence, were with difficulty kept from forcing themselves through the military array, and, with screams and shouts, joined in the cry for mercy."

Mr. Theal, the Colonial Histriographer, dealing with this matter, says, however, that "before ascending the scaffold they requested to be allowed to sing a hymn with their late companions and friends, and upon permission being granted, their voices were clear and firm. After this, Stephanus Botma—whose ancestor of the same name was the first burgher in South Africa—addressed those present, advising them to be cautious in their behaviour, and take warning from his fate. To outward appearance, they were all perfectly resigned to die. When the drop fell, four of the ropes snapped, and the condemned men rose from the ground unharmed."

Whichever version is correct, however, it is certain that the men were thrown to the ground.

But the stern nature of his duty left Colonel Cuyler absolutely no alternative but to see the execution completed. Although possessed of a quick and fiery temper, he was at heart one of the kindest of men, and it may therefore be easily imagined with what pain he ordered the structure to be repaired at once. His strict orders from Cape Town were that the culprits must be despatched on the day mentioned in the warrant, and it was for him to obey. The executioner hastily made all the necessary preparations once more, the men were again secured and led to the gallows, the soldiers closed round it, and, amid the cries and clamours and prayers of their friends and relations, the sufferers re-mounted the fatal ladder and were launched into eternity one by one. The last rays of the setting sun shone gloomily upon the dangling figures, until they were finally cut down. Here another sad scene ensued, for the relatives besought Colonel Cuyler to grant them the remains for interment. He was compelled by his orders to refuse this request, and the corpses were buried under the gallows by the hands of the executioner.

Among the rebels there was one man who had a narrow escape from the death sentence. His

name was Frans Marais, and he was a deserter from the Batavian Army. Whether that was his real name is not known. He was sentenced to have a rope fastened round his neck during the execution of his companions, and then to be banished from South Africa for life. Mercy was extended to the remaining convicts. Seven of them were banished for life from the districts of George, Uitenhage, and Graaff-Reinet, five were fined 200 rix-dollars with the alternative of four months' imprisonment, four were fined 50 rix-dollars or one month's imprisonment, one was fined 100 rix-dollars or two months' hard labour, while 60 were condemned to witness the execution and were then set free.

Thus ended the rebellion of 1815. It caused the deepest feeling at the time, and this continued for many years. It is still a painful subject to Dutch and English to-day. These dark memories, however, are rapidly disappearing like mists before the sun, for the two dominant races are fusing into one united whole, and a thorough understanding of each other is consequently being arrived at. Much as the incidents which brought the rebellion to an end are to be deplored, we can scarcely measure them by the standard of the twentieth century. Life then was infinitely cheaper than it is now. Even in England it was the custom to hang people convicted of theft and other petty crimes. Still, everyone will agree that Lord Somerset should have mitigated the sentences of capital punishment; but those dark days have passed from South Africa for ever, just as have the gloomy times in Great Britain when Protestants persecuted and tortured and burned their Roman Catholic fellow-creatures in order to propagate the Gospel of peace, love and charity, and when the Roman Catholics retaliated upon their Protestant brethren with interest the moment they had an opportunity of doing so. Nobody worries about these episodes now. Both sides admittedly made mistakes, but the descendants of these grim, stern men, long dead and gone, have profited by their errors by laying the results of their experience to heart, and living together in peace and unity.

Mr. J. H. Lange. On the 21st of November, 1817, Mr. J. H. Lange was appointed to Uitenhage as Districts Clerk and Clerk for the "enregisterment" of slaves, in the place of Mr. Auret. Slaves were gradually being better looked after by the Government, and their interests more generally considered. The "Magna Charta" of the natives, as it is called, was not signed until 1828—fifteen years later.

Cows 16s. 4d. Each. We might mention in passing that at this period the price of stock was extraordinarily low. We have been shown a paper dated 1815, faded and yellow with age, receipting the payment of 108 rix-dollars (£8 2s. 0d.) for ten milch cows! This works out at 16 4 for each animal!

Private Seals. An interesting sidelight is thrown upon the almost autocratic power then possessed by landdrosts by a curious complaint made by the Governor, General Cradock. On his return to Capetown, after a tour of the Colony, a notice appeared in the *Government Gazette* stating that His Excellency had noticed that landdrosts and others were in the habit of placing their own arms over the drostdies, while they impressed public documents with their own private seals! He therefore desired that the Royal Arms should be substituted for the others. He furthermore directed that a sufficient number of seals bearing the King's arms and the name of the drostdy should be prepared for distribution.

Two well-known Colonists. About this time two well-known Colonists arrived in Uitenhage—Messrs. Brehm and Graham. The descendants of both are still flourishing in South Africa. Mr. Brehm was the grandfather of those members of the family who still reside in Uitenhage, and he laid out the beautiful gardens in Cuyler Street now owned by Mr. W. H. Dolley. Of the descendants of Mr. Graham it is not necessary to say much, for there are but few people who have not heard of Mr. Acting-Justice T. Lydendoch Graham and his brother, Mr. J. Graham, Secretary to the Law Department.

The First Uitenhage Turf Club. And now we arrive at a subject which will be of considerable interest to all sportsmen—and is not their name legion in Uitenhage? We refer to the founding of a Turf Club here in 1815. The population of the town was naturally very small, and it is not therefore surprising to find that the effective members only numbered twenty. Four honorary members brought the grand total up to two dozen. The "effectives" paid 15 rix-dollars per annum (22 6) and the "honoraries" 10 rix-dollars per annum (15 -). The following are the full lists:—Colonel Cuyler, Capt. Evatt, Capt. Ellers, Messrs. J. Baird, Fleischer, Damant, Allen, Knobel, Buchenroder, Damster, J. H. Lange, De Waal, Rens, Bergh, J. J. Muller,

H. O. Lange, J. A. van Niekerk, Gordon, Huntly, P. Retief. The honorary members were Messrs. Luyston, I. S. Ferreira, J. A. van Niekerk, and Garis.

A faithful record of the betting was kept, five rix-dollars being the favourite stake. At the September meeting in 1815 the events appear to have been as follows :—Zwartkops Plate, Pony Sweepstakes, Districts Plate, Regent's Plate, Hangklip Plate, Bethelsdorp Plate, and Handicap Plate. The expenses of the meeting amounted to 290 rix-dollars (£21 15s.), and this left 616 rix-dollars (£46 4s.) as a balance on hand.

Encouraged by the success which had attended the first meeting, the committee decided to hold another one in February, 1816. This met with even more gratifying results, for two other plates were added—the "Uitenhage" and "Change." The sum of 300 rix-dollars (£22 10s.) was expended on a handsome silver cup. The making of the racecourse cost £15, and the balance in hand at the end of the meeting amounted to £16. This was after the race dinner had been settled for.

In August the third meeting was held, and the accounts show that the Turf Club was rapidly becoming a most popular institution. The subscriptions were raised from 15 to 20 rix-dollars, and the membership had increased. The committee could now afford to do things in style, and we find an item of 97 rix-dollars (£6 16s) "for wagon hire for bringing down the band from Grahamstown and back." This band must have been a military one, and therefore worth the expense incurred. The music would, at all events, be more elaborate than at the races held in August of the previous year. The financial statements regarding the festivities on that occasion contain the following quaintly simple entries : "To fidler and piper, 10 rix-dollars ; drummer, 2 rix-dollars ; six fiddle strings, 3 rix-dollars." The art of printing had not yet been introduced into the Eastern Province, and the race bills were therefore written out by hand, the munificent sum of 1s. 6d. being paid to the industrious scribe for his work.

It is easy to conceive that these bi-annual meetings were the chief events to which the people of Uitenhage could look forward as a relief from the monotony of their existence. The village was small, scattered, and isolated, as will be seen from the sketch which forms part of our frontispiece, and which was not drawn until three years after the period we are now dealing with. On these great occasions the place must have been deserted ; all and sundry would flock to the breezy veld, there to enjoy at least one afternoon's excitement in the course of their lives. And after the races were over, and when the music extracted by the "fidler" from his three dollars' worth of fiddle strings—to say nothing of the piping and drumming—had dwindled away into silence, what could be more natural than a dinner to wind up the festivities ?

THE TURF CLUB DINNER.

Mr. van Eyk was caterer on this occasion, and, judging from his bill, he seems to have provided an excellent spread. The prices are interesting in the extreme, and for convenience sake we have reduced them to the present currency. Forty-eight bottles of wine were supplied at 1 6 each, while three bottles of French brandy only cost 4 6 each (half their present value.) Two fowls were priced at 10.l. each, while 100 lbs. of meat ran to 18s. (less than 1½d. per lb.)

We have now given our readers a brief idea of the Turf Club as it was in days gone by. The yellow documents, written in ink, long faded, and the carefully audited accounts are interesting beyond description, reviving, as they do, names long since buried in obscurity, and bringing before the mind's eye the forms of those whole-hearted Uitenhage sportsmen who were the pioneers of racing in this part of the country. The Turf Club of the present day forms a link with the past, for it is the lineal descendant, so to speak, of the institution we have dealt with above. We shall revert to it in the proper place, and leave for the nonce the gala days and the nights of good cheer which were celebrated here in the year 1819.

The Dutch Reformed Church.

We now enter upon a subject which is inextricably bound up in the history of Uitenhage past and present — the Dutch Reformed Church, to wit. No record of the town or district would be complete without an accurate account of the vicissitudes through which this important institution has passed since it was founded in these parts, and we therefore offer no apology for referring to it at some considerable length.

A congregation is often founded before a church is built for their accomodation, and this was the case with the local body. The earliest official records we have are contained in the minute books, which, yellow and stained with age, are still filed in the archives of the church. A perusal of these shows that the first meeting was held on the 11th of December, 1817 (87 years ago), when there were present the Rev. C. Mol (chairman), Messrs. P. S.

van Niekerk, and J. A. Jansen van Vuuren (elders), and J. C. Cuyler (Government representative). The last-named gentleman delivered to the Kerkeraad all the books and papers connected with the Church, and the election of deacons was then proceeded with. The choice fell upon Messrs. Gerrit van Rooyen and Johannes Lange. On the 11th of May, 1818, another meeting was held, and a communication was read from the Governor (Lord Charles Somerset) sanctioning the appointment of those officers. The Dutch Reformed Church was then of course the State Church, and therefore under Government control. At this second meeting it was resolved that the son of Jan Kromhout should be sexton, at an annual salary of 300 rix-dollars (£22 10s.)

We have previously stated (see page 7) that the original church was the building now occupied by Mr. F. H. Luyt. Here it was that the services were conducted by the Rev. Cornelius Mol every Sunday; but it is not generally known that the house situated further along the street, and now in the occupation of the descendants of Mr. Joachim Brehm, was the manse. Such, nevertheless, was the case.

Mr. Mol was not stationed here for any great length of time. In fact his ministry was the shortest in the history of the Uitenhage Church, for he was appointed to Swellendam in 1822, and died there on the 11th of February, 1863.

But we are anticipating. It was on the 12th of February, 1818, that Colonel Cuyler submitted to the Kerkeraad a plan of the proposed new church. This, of course, had to be submitted to the Governor for his approval; but if the members of the committee could have foreseen the apparently endless series of complications that were in store for them it is doubtful whether they would have entered into the work with such enthusiastic zest and vigour. As a matter of fact the edifice was not opened until 1843—a quarter of a century afterwards!

The first step taken was the election of other two deacons—Messrs. Lucas Jansen van Vuuren and Lucas Marthinus van Rooyen. Another meeting was convened on the 5th of March to consider the great questions of building the new church and of establishing a school. On the second of April, 1818, a letter was read stating that His Excellency had been pleased to approve of the plans submitted to him, and that he also confirmed the appointments of Messrs. van Vuuren and van Rooyen as deacons.

Fifteen months passed away, and in July, 1819, the Kerkeraad sent a letter to the school committee, which had already been formed, recommending that Mr. J. P. T. Touchon be given the appointment of teacher.

At the same time various accounts were passed for payment, and amongst the items we find that the annual sum of 30 rix-dollars (£2 5s.) was disbursed for cleaning out the special pews occupied by the Landdrost and Heemraden. The fees for the various ecclesiastical offices were as follow: Christenings 1s. 6d., confirmations 1s. 6d., and marriages 4s. 8d., while a "chair in church" cost 1s. 6d. per annum.

In November, 1819, Deacons van Rooyen, J. Lange, and T. van Niekerk resigned; Messrs. J. van Niekerk, P. Maré, and B. de Klerk were elected in their stead. The Governor confirmed this selection on the 24th of February, 1820.

A Shipwreck and a Bible.

There are but few people living in Uitenhage to-day who have not heard of the wreck of the Dutch man-o'-war *Amsterdam*, and of the famous Bible which was presented to the church by Commissary-General J. A. Uitenhage De Mist. But there are equally few who know that the two incidents are closely associated. In fact this Bible was the outcome of the shipwreck. The story is an interesting one.

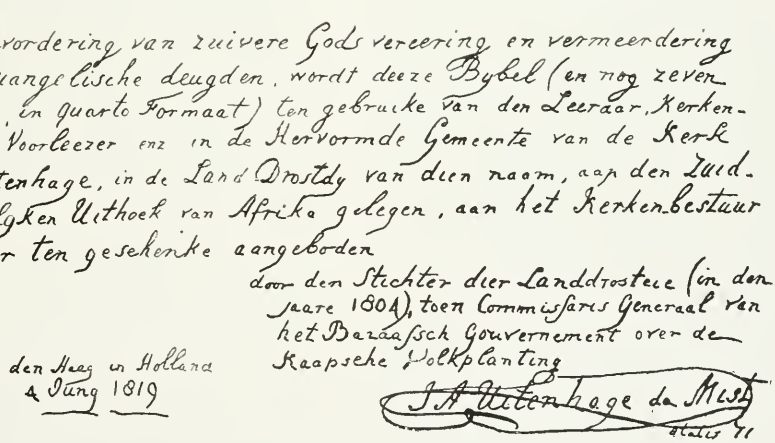
On the 16th of December, 1817, the *Amsterdam*, commanded by Captain Hofmeyr, entered Algoa Bay dismasted and in a sinking condition. The day was dark and stormy, and the crew, worn with toil and anxiety, welcomed the sight of the low, sandy shores which stretched in front of them. With but one exception the boats had been carried away by the heavy seas, and in the one which remained were placed a lady, two children, and a lieutenant, named Aspeling, who had in his possession the ship's papers. This forlorn little party reached the land in safety, but there were still 220 men on board the doomed vessel, and there was imminent danger of her sinking under their feet without a moment's warning. The only thing to be done was to run her ashore with the least possible delay. Dusk was approaching when the keel of the *Amsterdam* grated on the beach at a desolate spot midway between the mouths of the Zwartkops and Coega rivers, and before the waves could complete the work of destruction no less than 217 out of the 220 men were saved. The remaining three perished. The vessel, however, lasted for three days and then broke up, but, owing to the fierce current which sweeps round these coasts, scarcely any of

the wreckage drifted ashore. Officers and men were scantily clad, as most of them had discarded all that was superfluous in the way of clothing ; the supply of food was by no means abundant for so large a party, and, in short, their plight was pitiable in the extreme. Fort Frederick, however, was not far distant, and before very long assistance arrived. The hospitable people of Uitenhage soon learned of the disaster, and came to the rescue with their usual whole-hearted generosity. The wrecked seamen were made as comfortable as circumstances would permit, and it would appear that, on the whole, they had a decidedly comfortable time of it. The plain adjoining the scene of their deliverance from a watery grave, by the way, was subsequently named after the wrecked man-o'-war, and is still known as the Amsterdam Flats.

In this work of charity the local Dutch Reformed Church took a very prominent part. The Kerkeraad opened subscription lists, and the people not only responded in the most liberal fashion, but displayed the most practical sympathy and interest in the unfortunate mariners.

Commissary-General J. A. Uitenhage De Mist had not ceased to take an interest in the town and district which bore and still bear his family name, and when he heard of the kindly treatment accorded to the seamen by the inhabitants he resolved to send them some tangible mark of his appreciation. Communication between Cape Colony and Holland was not so rapid in those days as it is in these ; but we find that in the minute book of the church there is an entry dated the 24th of February, 1820, which bears upon the subject. It states that after Messrs. Maré, Van Niekerk and De Klerk had been appointed deacons, a letter was read from General de Mist warmly thanking the Church and the public generally for the help they had rendered the shipwrecked sailors of the Dutch man-o'-war *Amsterdam*, and, as a token of his appreciation, he had great pleasure in presenting the Church with a Bible for use in the pulpit, and also for the use of the Landdrost, Kerkeraad, and Heemraden.

The volume is indeed a ponderous one, for it weighs about 25 lbs. ; the binding is of leather covered oak, mounted with massive silver clasps. The book is not used to-day, but is kept in the vestry, securely locked away in a safe. On the title page is an inscription in General De Mist's own handwriting, and the following is a *fac simile* of it, with a literal translation :—



[Literal Translation.]—*For the promotion of the pure worship of God and the increase of Evangelical Virtues, this Bible (with seven others in quarto size), for the use of the Minister, Kerkeraad, and Precentor of the Reformed Congregation of the Church at Uitenhage, in the Magistracy of that name, situate in the South-Eastern part of Africa, is offered as a gift to the consistory there*

By the founder of the Magistracy (in the year 1804), then Commissary-General of the Batavian Government, at the Cape Colony.

The Hague in Holland,
4th June, 1819.

J. A. Uitenhage de Mist,
Aged 71.

Hence the wreck of the *Amsterdam* and the presentation of this historic Bible to the Dutch Reformed Church by the founder of our town and district are, as we said before, very closely connected.

Slow Progress.

The Government had already granted a sum of money towards the building of the church, and it was now asked whether they had not a sufficient amount in hand to enable a commencement to be made. An important meeting of the Kerkeraad was held on the 10th of October, 1820, to consider the matter. It was resolved to ask the sanction of the Colonial Secretary to borrow 5,000 rix-dollars (£375) from the bank in order that the work might be started. On the 25th of January that official replied consenting to the raising of the loan, and confirming the change made in the *personnel* of the new Kerkeraad. Tenders were called for, and it now seemed as if matters would proceed more rapidly in the future than they had in the past. Vain hope! Babies who were in swaddling clothes at the time this resolution was passed were grown men and women, and probably with tiny families of their own, before the church was opened. At the meeting held on the 1st March, 1821, three tenders were considered. The first was submitted by Messrs. John Strachan, George Donald, and John Coultherd for 45,317 rix-dollars (£3,400). The second was lower—38,760 rix-dollars (£2,907)—and was sent in by Messrs. Gerrit van Rooyen and G. Tait. The third and last was from C. F. Pohl, and was the lowest of the three,—32,000 rix-dollars (£2,400). This was accepted, and the successful contractor, who must have lived in some other town, was requested to visit Uitenhage for the purpose of signing the agreement and arranging details with the Kerkeraad.

The Kerkeraad Increased.

In October, 1821, it was resolved to increase the numerical strength of the Kerkeraad. Messrs. P. Maré and P. Moulman were created elders, the deacons being Messrs. A. M. Muller, J. A. van Niekerk, P. H. du Preez, Daniel Nel, Barend Marais, and Isaak Meyer. Their term of office was also extended.

The Work Begins.

On the 7th of February, 1822—eleven months after the acceptance of the contract—Pohl was shown the site of the future church. It was resolved that the work should be commenced on the 1st of March, and that the laying of the foundation stone should be marked by a solemnity worthy of the occasion. The Governor approved of the additions to the Kerkeraad, and decreed that two of the members should inspect the building operations every day.

The Commencement of the Trouble.

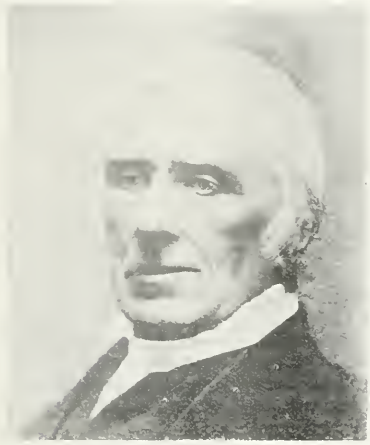
It soon became apparent that in accepting the lowest tender the Kerkeraad had not acted too wisely, for ten days after the work began Colonel Cuyler, as the representative of the Governor, demanded that the entire Kerkeraad should inspect the foundation Pohl was laying down. He also stipulated that if these were found to be unsatisfactory the contractor should be notified accordingly, and ordered to improve his work. If he refused he was to be warned that the contract would be cancelled forthwith.

The inspection was duly held, with the result that the Kerkeraad immediately expressed to Colonel Cuyler their entire dissatisfaction with the quality of the foundations. In fact, they were not laid down according to contract, and the Landdrost was requested to communicate with Pohl at once. A special meeting was convened on the 14th of March for the purpose of impressing upon him the absolute necessity of his close adherence to the agreement. He was also asked whether he was willing to rectify what had been badly done, viz., by removing the stones already laid down and replacing them with better workmanship. He said in reply that if the work were inspected and condemned by an expert he would be willing to bear the cost of doing it over again; but if an expert could not be obtained and they still insisted upon an improvement a new contract must be entered into.

This was the beginning of an apparently endless series of bickerings and negotiations. In July it was resolved not to let Pohl have his own way, and in September he was told to go on with the work at once, failing which he would be prosecuted for breach of contract. He, however, adhered to the terms of his decision regarding the expert's opinion, and it was then resolved to have the foundations strengthened by somebody else. In August, 1823—more than two years after the signing of the contract—the Church officers decided to have the *kerkhuis* (or manse) repaired, and furthermore to consult Advocate Brand, of Capetown, as to the best method of dealing with Pohl. But by this time the Rev. Cornelis Mol had received and accepted a call to Stellenbosch, and his resignation was regretfully accepted at a meeting held on the 21st of June, 1823.

The Rev. Alexander Smith.

Seven months afterwards, or, to be exact, on the 16th January, 1824, the Rev. Alexander Smith presided for the first time at a meeting of the Uitenhage Kerkeraad. It was the fore-runner of many, for he remained in active ministry here for no less than forty years.



The Rev. Alexander Smith.

The Kerkeraad and Baptismal Fees.

At the meeting we have referred to—the first at which Mr. Smith presided—a letter was read from Mr. C. Bird, Colonial Secretary, approving of the appointment of the following members : Messrs. A. M. Muller (senior) as elder, and Solomon Vermaak and P. C. van Niekerk as deacons. The minutes also show that the fees for baptisms were increased. If the rite were administered within the parish, the sum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ rix-dollars (3s. 9d.) was charged, and of this 1s. 6d. was devoted to the Church funds and 2s. 3d. given to the sexton. Outside the parish, however, the fee was 5s. 3d. of which the church received 3s., while the remaining 2s. 3d. was divided between the sexton and the poor.

It was not only decided to proceed against Pohl, and to send all papers to Capetown, but also to insert an advertisement in the *Government Gazette* stating that the parsonage was for sale. Another building would then be hired or purchased for the accommodation of the minister. In the following month Advocate Brand was retained by the Church, and a letter was received by the Kerkeraad from Pohl stating that he desired to obtain possession of a certain document, then in the hands of the Kerkeraad which would soon prove that they had kept him back: and had they not done so, he could have proceeded with the work as agreed upon. They decided to give him this paper, and deputed Mr. Cuyler, an elder and a deacon, to deliver it up. The money required for the carrying on of the case was borrowed from one of the elders, and thus the machinery of the law was started at last. It must have been an intense disappointment to everyone concerned that so vexatious a delay had taken place, and one can easily imagine how difficult it would be to maintain the general enthusiasm in the project.

A Precentor Wanted.

But although the erection of the new building had been stopped, the work of the Church was vigorously pushed forward by the energetic predikant and his Kerkeraad. On the 9th of February, 1824, it was resolved that as there was no precentor one should be appointed, and that His Excellency the Governor be applied to for financial assistance in the shape of a grant of 700 rix-dollars (52 guineas) per annum. This was the first conspicuous improvement made by Mr. Smith, for there can be little doubt that the proposition came from him, seeing that the meeting in question was only the second which he had attended. New brooms sweep clean. At all events on the 28th of April, 1824, a letter was read from the Governor stating that he had been pleased to grant the sum of 700 rix-dollars per annum for the purpose set forth in the Kerkeraad's communication. It was then decided to appoint "Mr. John Humphreys as *voorlezer* (*i.e.* precentor and lay reader), in the Hollandsche en Engelshe Kerk," at that salary. The main qualifications for the holder of this responsible office was that he should be "a capable man, knowing both languages."

The Building Trouble Again.

So much trouble had now been experienced with Pohl, the contractor, and so long a time had elapsed since the foundation stone of the new church had been laid, and so much grass had grown over the dilapidated foundations themselves, that one might be pardoned for wondering why the man was not released from his agreement, and tenders again called for. But the Kerkeraad doubtless imagined that they had the law on their side ; or, perhaps, they were now too thoroughly aroused in their wrath to let him off so cheaply after all the trouble and expense to which he had put them ; but whatever the reason may

have been, it was determined to proceed with the case. Pohl's guarantors became alarmed. It is possible that they themselves entertained misgivings as to his chances in a Court of Justice, and on the 6th July, 1824—more than two years after the contract was signed—they begged to be released from their suretyships. The Kerkeraad, however, refused to consider this application, as it had been decided to proceed with the action, and Advocate Brand already had it well in hand. It was all very well to say that Advocate Brand had the matter well in hand, but, judging by the light of later events, it is questionable whether such were really the case. He must have derived quite an annual income from his exasperated Uitenhage clients, and they, in turn, tasted to the full the bitterness of the law's delay. During the next two years this enterprising barrister appears to have kept up a correspondence with the Kerkeraad on the most trivial pretexts (at so-much per letter, of course), and we find, for instance, such grave statements as the following in the minutes :—(The meeting in question, by the way, was held on the 28th of March, 1824—two years after the sureties were told that the advocate had the case well in hand) :—" Papers were received from Capetown regarding the contractors. Messrs. Cuyler and Muller had previously been deputed to send certain documents to the advocate. Mr. Brand now wrote saying he found that Mr. Muller had resigned from the Kerkeraad, and that he could not therefore act. A successor should be appointed at once. The meeting then elected Mr. J. R. Innes to act in Mr. Muller's stead."

It is interesting to note the evidently hopeless patience with which these weighty communications from Cape Town were received. Perhaps, however, the Kerkeraad had resolved to see how long their advocate could really continue as he was doing. In the absence of documentary evidence regarding the cause of these interminable delays, it is difficult to arrive at any other conclusion, although prolonged litigation is generally an expensive amusement. As we are relating events in their chronological order, we shall pick up threads of the action here and there in proper sequence. They form the background of the tapestry, and the patterns woven upon it might well be figures representing " Patience " and " Long-suffering."

More Changes.

The erection of a new school was still under discussion in 1824, and at the meeting held on the 5th of October, in the same year, it was resolved to lay out a cemetery " beyond the furrow, and as high up as possible," while the services of a land surveyor were to be retained for this purpose. On the 27th December, Mr. C. Pohl, junior, was informed, in reply to a couple of letters which he addressed to the Kerkeraad regarding his position as organist of the church, that he would be paid the sum of 300 rix-dollars (£22 10s.), and his services dispensed with. D. du Toit, the sexton, was also dismissed at the same time, owing to some financial mystery which he could not satisfactorily explain. Next month it was decided to amalgamate the duties of sexton with those of bell-ringer, and Du Toit's successor must possess, as one of his qualifications, that of being able to toll well. On the 5th April, 1825, Johan de Korte (father of the late Mr. de Korte, Cuyler Street), was appointed to this position, but he was apparently allowed to have the bell rung at his own expense by somebody else.

An Important Innovation.

On the 27th December, 1824, a most important communication from Capetown was read and approved of by the Kerkeraad. It stated that the following sums should be contributed by the Church in aid of the Synod Fund : (1) ten per cent. (*i.e.* a tithe) of all collections, gifts, presents, and legacies ; (2) one rix-dollar (1 6) for the baptism of every child not christened on the fixed day (gewoonen tijd)* ; (3) 9d. for every baptism on the ordinary day ; (4) for the burial of every corpse, 9d ; and (5) 9d. for each seat in church. A little more than nine months afterwards, a copy of the regulations framed by the Governor anent the general meeting of the Synod was received and filed.

Marks of Progress.

At the end of January, 1825, the Kerkeraad complained that they did not possess a complete register of members, and after the matter had been fully discussed it was decided to place the affair in General Cuyler's hands. He was asked to procure the names of all who belonged to the Church and to enter them in a book. The members of the various wards undertook to assist him in every possible way.

About the same time a petition was received regarding the purchase of a public clock, and it was decided to open subscription lists for the purchase of one.

* The rite of baptism had hitherto been administered on Mondays, but the day was now altered to Tuesday. The fee was higher for christening on any other day of the week.

In March, 1826, Mr. Smith pointed out that the Church possessed absolutely nothing in the way of a safe repository wherein the records might be placed, and it was decided to have a chest made for the preservation of these papers.

The long expected Synod was to be held in November of this year, and Mr. Smith received instructions to do what he could while in Capetown to procure a competent schoolmaster for the natives here. He appears to have done his best, but after the Synod was over a letter arrived from the Metropolis stating that the "School Commission" there could not assist the Kerkeraad in this direction. An appeal for help was then made to the Governor direct.

Pohl Wins His Case.

At last, after an apparently interminable delay, the case against Pohl was brought to a conclusion. Mr. Smith, as we have seen, visited Capetown in November, 1826, and it is not inconceivable that he found occasion to give Mr. Advocate Brand a piece of his mind regarding the dilatory way in which he was conducting the campaign against the contractor. At all events matters appear to have progressed more rapidly after this, and on the 27th August, 1827, a special meeting of the Kerkeraad was convened for the purpose of hearing and considering the judgment which had just been delivered. There were present the Rev. A Smith (in the chair), Elders Cuyler, Maré, and Van Vuuren, and Deacon J. Rose Innes. Mr. Smith read a letter from Advocate Brand informing the Kerkeraad that judgment had been entered in favour of Pohl for 8,000 rix-dollars (£600) and costs of suit. This was a serious set back, and one can imagine the disappointment that was felt at so unexpected a termination to the case. However, the Kerkeraad was not going to give in without a struggle. It was resolved to answer Advocate Brand's letter without delay, and to ascertain whether the materials used by Pohl, and still in the possession of the Church, came within the amount awarded in his favour. Enquiries were also to be made as to whether the Court would stay the effect of the judgment to enable the whole Kerkeraad to meet for the purpose of deciding the question of an appeal against the decision. The Court, in the end, granted this petition, and it was resolved to appeal. In October, 1827, Advocate Brand informed the Kerkeraad that he had lodged an appeal, and had fulfilled all the conditions prescribed in such cases. But another irritating delay occurred. The appeal, as we have seen, was noted in October, 1827, and yet the minutes show that in July, 1829—a year and nine months afterwards—Advocate Brand wrote informing the Kerkeraad that the delay in the appeal was caused by Pohl's barrister asking for a translation into English of the whole proceedings, and this work was not yet completed! Another twelve months passed by, and Cashier-deacon Rose Innes resigned his office, as he was leaving Uitenhage for Capetown. Mr. M. Potgieter was elected to fill his place. Mr. Innes was requested to see Brand on his arrival in the metropolis and to enquire into his long silence regarding the fate of the appeal. This was in July, 1830. What the result of Mr. Innes' interview with the advocate was we do not know, but the next reference to the matter is dated 27th December, 1830, when it was decided to empower the ex-Cashier-deacon to attend Court on behalf of the Kerkeraad.

The Kerkeraad Wins the Appeal.

Another six months passed! Mr. Innes had managed, however, to bring things to a head, and on the 4th of July, 1831, a letter was received from him stating that the case would be argued during the ensuing term in the Court of Appeal (Hof van Justitie). Then came a red-letter day in the history of the Dutch Reformed Church, Uitenhage. On the 3rd October, 1831, the Kerkeraad assembled, and Mr. Smith read a communication which must have created feelings of unmingled relief and satisfaction to everybody dwelling in the town and district. It announced that the case Kerkeraad *versus* Pohl had been argued in the Court of Appeal, and that judgment had been given in favour of the Church, Pohl being mulcted in the sum of 18,000 rix-dollars (£1,350), and ordered to pay all costs. And thus, after no less than eight years of dreary waiting, the Kerkeraad was victorious at last. One can imagine the unbounded delight of those patient, long-suffering people when the news of their hard-earned victory was announced to them by their minister, and it is not difficult to realise that the enthusiasm which had marked the laying of the foundation stone nine years before, and which had dwindled and sunk under the interminable delays of the law, now rose to its former height. Hopes would doubtless be entertained that the new building would be ready for use within the next year or two. As a matter of fact another twelve years were to elapse before the new church was opened! However, the Kerkeraad considered their victory in all its bearings, and then decided that, as they were un-

acquainted with Pohl's financial position, they should ask for advice on the question of proceeding against his sureties for the amount awarded by the Court. A committee, consisting of the Rev. Alexander Smith, Messrs. L. Jansen van Vuuren, M. Potgieter, and Alexander Tennant, was then appointed to decide what instructions should be given to the attorney, and they were given full power to act.

Changes.

In the meantime, however, certain changes had taken place. The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate (Mr. van der Riet) informed the Kerkeraad in April, 1828, that General Cuyler would no longer represent the Government at the meetings, and, as a matter of fact, that gentleman's name ceases to appear in the minute book after the 27th December, 1827. In October, 1828, the Government communicated with the Board and graciously exempted all Kerkeraad members from municipal duties during their term of office. Mr. Humphreys, the precentor, did not get along very well with his immediate superiors, and he was dismissed, Mr. J. Hyman being appointed in his stead. The sexton died about this time, and the post was conferred upon his son, Mr. G. de Korte, on the 5th October, 1829. At the same meeting Mr. J. W. van der Riet, C.C. & R.M., gave notice that the interest on money borrowed from the Government by the Kerkeraad School Committee was due and payable; and from this it would appear that a native school had already been started under the ægis of the Church. Indeed, an ancient copy of the *Commercial Advertiser* states that "in the year 1822 an English Seminary for the instruction of youth of both sexes was founded, and which has been crowned with the greatest success: the number of pupils is new one hundred and sixty. There is also a school for the black and heathen, where ninety children receive instruction in the English language." It was on the 12th of July, 1822, according to the *Government Gazette*, that Mr. James Rose-Innes, M.A., was appointed "Instructor in the English tongue," and we have already seen that this gentleman (the father of a late Magistrate of Uitenhage and grandfather of the present Chief Justice of the Transvaal) took a prominent part in the affairs of the Church, and was eventually the means of bringing Pohl's case to a speedy conclusion.

Mission Work.

Missions were flourishing in those days, and the Malays were not forgotten, for it was resolved in October, 1827, to devote the Christmas collections to the South African Society, who wished to spread the Gospel among these people.

The Capetown Philanthropic Society also communicated with the Kerkeraad regarding the emancipation of slaves, and the letter was recorded.

On the 26th December, 1831, Mr. J. Bennie wrote from Kaffirland asking permission to labour spiritually among the slaves in Uitenhage. He belonged to the Slaves' Missionary Society, and besought not only for the requisite permission, but also requested financial assistance from the Church. After some deliberation it was resolved to grant Mr. Bennie leave to carry out his task here, but not to grant him any financial aid.

The need of a Theological Seminary had long been felt in Cape Colony, for towns were beginning to spring up in various parts of the country, and the demand for ministers was rapidly exceeding the supply. Young men whose abilities were great but whose resources were small were frequently debarred from entering the Church by reason of their being unable to proceed to Europe for their clerical training, and the services of many a valuable man were lost in consequence. The necessity of establishing a Theological College in Capetown had been on the *tapis* for some time, but, so far, nothing definite had been accomplished in this direction. On the 2nd of April, 1832, however, the Kerkeraad were asked to consider the question of assisting in the work of founding a seminary in Capetown which would meet this long felt want. Funds were urgently required, and a general appeal was being made in every town and district. With their usual readiness to further every movement calculated to increase the Church's power for doing good, or to assist in the wider propagation of the Gospel, the Kerkeraad resolved that the matter should be laid before the congregation, and that every effort should be put forth to facilitate this worthy project. One can readily understand that when the people learned what was required of them they were not slow in contributing their share toward the fund which had been opened.

The Church's Salt Pans.

Deacon A. Tennant, in April, 1832, brought to the notice of the Kerkeraad that the salt pans at Bethelsdorp and Port Elizabeth belonged to the Church, and it was thereupon resolved to ascertain the real facts of the case, and, if this proved to be correct, to lease them for one year to the highest bidder.

Writing on this subject in 1843, Mr. John Centlivres Chase says that "there are two salt pans close to Elizabeth Town, producing a very inconsiderable quantity. The third is situated on the lands of the Missionary Institution of Bethelsdorp, affording a very lucrative source of revenue to the Hottentots of that station, from its proximity to the place of export. The fourth and largest is on the eastern heights of the Zwartkops River, which is farmed out by tender at £200 per annum by the Dutch Reformed Church, for whose support it is at present granted by the Government. The origin of these singular natural phenomena remains a mystery; the elevation of these pans and the distance of others (as in the case of those in the country beyond the Orange River, 300 miles from the nearest coast), preclude all supposition of oceanic connection. The deposits of continual solutions of saliferous plants so common to this continent, and their evaporation in the pans, is another untenable hypothesis, as similar hills, equally surrounded by the same vegetable substances, are frequently found in their immediate neighbourhood, holding perfectly sweet water. It has been suggested that they owe their existence to some occult chemical process, enabling the soil to generate the mineral; but perhaps, after all, the true *rationale* of the matter is that below these pans large beds of rock salt are deposited, and that the rains in winter descend through the soil and reach the first, by which they are saturated, and, evaporating during the hot weather, form a crust collected on the bed or floor of the pan. The truth of this theory might be tested with inconsiderable cost by boring; but as the supply is plenteous enough for the demand, no person has as yet thought fit to settle the question by practical experiment. Excellent, however, as is the pan salt for table and culinary uses, and none can be better, as well as for every other purpose, it is to be regretted that a prejudice has existed against its employment for the purposes of salting, which is carried on to a great extent in Port Elizabeth. The objectors state that it is positively injurious, for, notwithstanding that it perfectly preserves the meat from decomposition, it entirely dissolves the fat and hardens the muscular fibre so much as to render it unservicable. To what ingredient in the mineral substance this imagined result is attributable the objectors have never yet attempted to show, although a commission of the medical body, appointed by the Colonial Government in 1827 to report upon the salt in question, stated that it does not differ essentially in chemical composition from ordinary common salt . . . and that they have not discovered any ingredient in it which, in their opinion, would disqualify it for the preservation of meat under proper management. The fact is that the pan salt is now found to be equally as good as that imported from Europe, and is almost exclusively used in the preservation of meat intended for export."

Hence, Deacon Tennant's discovery regarding the ownership of these pans was a fortunate one for the Church, and a valuable asset was thus turned to good account. Money was not over plentiful in those days, and the additional income derived from this source must have been very welcome. The Kerkeraad had many calls upon its coffers, for in 1831 the population of the parish was estimated at 7,000, only 150 of whom usually attended church.

Further Progress.

The Governor informed the Kerkeraad that the house lately occupied by the minister might be given over to the Church, on the understanding that it be kept in repair, and that the Slave School (situated where Messrs. Heeley's store now stands) should be maintained. From the minutes it would appear that the precentor also fulfilled the duties of school master, and that he annually received £50 from the Government and £50 from the Church. The late Mr. Henry Jones was the last precentor who worked under these conditions.

At the beginning of 1832 the Kerkeraad received a communication from the Master of the Supreme Court stating that the late Mr. Petrus van Staaden had left the Uitenhage Church a legacy of 24 Cape gulden.

The New Church Again.

On the 8th April, 1813, Mr. A. Tennant moved that the members of the Church should be asked to take shares in the building of the new edifice—*i.e.*, that the sum of 25,000 rix-dollars should be apportioned among the congregation, each share to be of the value of 100 rix-dollars (£7 10s.), payable in instalments. The Kerkeraad would undertake to refund the money thus advanced within two years, but without interest. This proposition was carried. At the same meeting it was moved that Mr. van der Riet (who was Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate) should be asked to recommend the Governor to sanction the lease of the T'Zitzikama forest (from which the Church derived part of its income), in order to raise funds for the building of the Church.

Another start was now made with regard to the erection of the Church, and it was decided to notify the Governor that the Kerkeraad had decided to proceed with the building in terms of the resolution carried at the preceding meeting, and to lay the corner stone on the first Monday in October, 1833. In the meantime an advertisement asking for plans and specifications was to be inserted in the public press, offering the sum of 100 rix-dollars (£7 10s.) to the successful architect. These plans and specifications were to be submitted before the 30th of July, and would then be laid before a meeting of the subscribers or shareholders. Mr. Pohl had become bankrupt by this time, and it was resolved that the Kerkeraad should sue his sureties for whatever deficiency might be shown in his estate.

An Infants' School.

On the 8th July, 1823, it was resolved, on Mr. Tennant's motion, that the collections taken up on Wednesday and Thursday evenings be devoted to the Infants' School which had been established.

The Law Suit once more.

If our readers are growing tired of the law suit already, how very weary the Kerkeraad must have been when the matter time and again came under their consideration! The history of this trial reminds one of Jarndyce *versus* Jarndyce in Dickens' "Bleak House," for it appeared to go on for ever. In October, 1833, Mr. Tennant brought to the notice of the Kerkeraad the fact that the trustee in Pohl's estate had accepted the sum of 200 rix-dollars (£15) as payment for the foundations which he had laid down. Then a delay occurred in connection with the laying of the foundation stone, for it was found that, owing to various hindrances, the function could not take place on the appointed date. The 28th of November, 1833, was therefore settled on, and it was decided to ask the Magistrate to perform the ceremony. Tenders for the stone work in the new foundations had been received in the meantime, but they were all too high. It was decided to see what quantity could be taken out of the old foundations, and then to invite tenders for supplying whatever balance might be required. An agreement was arrived at which provided that in the event of any difficulty arising in connection with the building those members of the Kerkeraad resident in the village and in the immediate vicinity should constitute a standing committee, whose duty it would be to adjust matters to the best of their ability. Three important resolutions were passed at this meeting (26th December, 1833.) The first was to call for tenders for the making of the necessary bricks, the second was that the requisite amount of wood should be purchased, and the third to instruct the Kerkeraad's attorney in Capetown to proceed against Pohl's sureties without further delay and bring the case to an end as soon as possible.

More Details.

The final decision regarding the plan of the new church was arrived at on the 5th of June, 1834, when it was resolved that two "row-windows" should be put into the four sides of the building, that the ceiling be constructed of lath and plaster, that the roof be of imported English slate, the necessary lead, nails, etc., were to be imported from Great Britain, while a double iron chain to enclose the church, and a bell three feet in diameter, were also to be obtained from Home. It was also resolved to build a consistory or vestry at the back of the church. Mr Streak was entrusted with the work of laying the foundations. The surplus stone was advertised for sale on the 14th June, and Mr. Celliers accepted the post of clerk of works at a fee amounting to three per cent. on the cost of the erection. The agreement between Mr. Celliers and the Kerkeraad was not drawn out, however, until the 6th of October, 1834, and on the same date the tenders for the supply of wood were considered, none of them being accepted, however, owing to the price being too high. The pew rents also occupied the attention of the Kerkeraad at this time. Matters looked so much brighter that it was no doubt anticipated that the church would be finished within a few months' time. But more than nine years elapsed between this period and the formal opening! It was resolved, however, that should there be more than one applicant for a pew, it should be put up to public auction and sold to the highest bidder. If funds grew too low, on the other hand, it was decided to call upon the subscribers and to obtain from them the amount of money signed for, so that the work in hand need not be delayed a day longer then necessary. Six months later a resolution was passed to the effect that Pohl's sureties should be sued for the amount previously awarded against him, and that this case should be brought on during the ensuing term. Advocate Brand, however, wrote later on saying he had endeavoured to carry out the wishes of the Kerkeraad in this direction, but his efforts had proved unsuccessful. The Kerkeraad then came to the sensible conclusion that as these delays were becoming intolerable, they themselves would send

in a petition to the Court and ask if there was no possibility of the matter being settled at an early date. This course was no doubt pursued, for within six months an opinion was received from Brand stating that at least twelve witnesses should be sent round to Capetown at the expense of the Church. He was informed in reply that some of the original witnesses were already dead, and others now so old that they were incapacitated from taking so long a journey. Could not this difficulty be met in some way or another? Sick at heart of the whole business, the Kerkeraad shortly afterwards decided that as it was not at present in a position to continue with the erection of the church, such bricks as were ready by the 4th January, 1836, should be sold by public auction.

The Kerkeraad again Victorious.

Six months afterwards a letter from Capetown was read stating that the case against the sureties would be heard on the 25th August, and that all surviving witnesses should then be in attendance. The trial was concluded in due course, and Pohl's sureties were mulct in the sum of £1,338 15s., with costs of suit. An appeal to the Privy Council, however, was notified, and this being the case the Kerkeraad were warned that they must give security for the costs in case the judgment should ultimately go against them. The prospect of further proceedings of this nature was so alarming that Cashier-Deacon Tennant was instructed to address a letter to one of the sureties, living in George, asking him whether some kind of an agreement or compromise could not be arrived at, and the appeal withdrawn. But if no answer were received by the first return mail, an appeal would be made to the more prominent people in the district that they should join the Kerkeraad in becoming plaintiffs in an action to recover the amount already awarded by the Court, but not yet paid. Also that they should act as guarantors for the sum required if the Privy Council's decision were unfavourable. As a matter of fact no reply was received from the surety who had been communicated with, and at the end of December, 1836, the Kerkeraad's attorney was formally instructed to proceed with the case. The Lieutenant-Governor was at the same time petitioned that a portion of the ground belonging to the Church might be sold for the purpose of proceeding with the erection of the new building. A month later the Kerkeraad heard from their lawyer, and it appeared that Pohl's sureties had paid the money down, but the sum he had received did not include the interest which was legally due. He advised, however, that this point should not be pressed, and his counsel was gladly accepted, for, by agreeing to forego the interest, the whole matter terminated, and the irritating delays caused by the further law suits were averted. Thus ended the fight between the Church and the Contractor, and there can be no doubt that both parties rejoiced greatly in the fact that peace reigned once more!

General Details.

In 1835, while the legal negotiations were in progress, Mr. J. G. de Villiers applied for leave to have a pew constructed and cushioned in the Church for his own use, and his request was granted, subject, however, to the condition that when it was finished it would be submitted to public auction. If he then purchased it, well and good; but if not it would be knocked down to the highest bidder!

On the motion of Mr. Taute it was decided, in 1836, to have the cemetery at the back of the church laid out into burial plots, these in future to be formally applied for, as people had in the past been in the habit of interring bodies there without the requisite permission!

In the same year Mr. Hyman was requested to erect a seraphine organ and to procure the services of an organist. If the result were satisfactory the instrument would be retained; otherwise one would be purchased in England.

Church Plans.

Once the law suit was satisfactorily disposed of, it became necessary to consider the great question of finance, as a fresh start would now be made with the new church. It was decided to borrow the sum of £1,000 from the Savings Bank of that period, and to leave it in the bank as an open deposit. The walls of the Church were to be 22 feet under the ceiling, stone being employed in building the first twelve feet and brick for the remainder, while the wood for the framework of the doors and windows was to be procured from the Western Province. It was further decided to institute enquiries regarding the most suitable wood, to obtain the services of a competent overseer, and to make out a list of everything that might be required. The slates for the roof were to be purchased in England.

The Lieutenant-Governor communicated with the Kerkeraad assenting to the above-mentioned sale of ground, and it was decided to sub-divide it into ten plots, which were to be paid for in 6, 12, and 18 months.

As no tenders had been received for supplying stock bricks, the whole building was subsequently ordered to be completed with stone. On the 2nd October, 1837, the plans were laid on the table by Cashier-Deacon Tennant, and they were accepted. The work was to begin at once. Six months later, it is amusing to note, a letter was read from one John Campbell, stating that he had been detained in Port Elizabeth for a whole week as the Kerkeraad had sent no wagon to convey him to Uitenhage. He therefore demanded a week's salary in consequence of the delay. This was granted, as was also permission for his son to work with him in the new church at a daily wage of a rix-dollar (1 6)!

Mr. Tennant explained at considerable length the great difficulty of procuring suitable beams, and he was instructed to ascertain whether some could not be obtained in T'Zitzikama forest.

Precentor and School Teacher.

Several letters were read from candidates for the combined posts of precentor and teacher of the Slave School, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. C. Hyman. It was decided to advertise the appointment in the public press, and not only to secure the most competent person for the position, but also to ask the School Commission to work in unison with the Kerkeraad. Mr. H. S. G. Schmidt was selected on the 1st of September, 1838.

More Trouble with the Contractors.

A dispute, the nature of which does not appear in the minute book, now arose between the Kerkeraad and the contractor who was supplying the stones. This, however, was patched up more rapidly than its predecessor, for it was agreed by both sides to cancel the agreement if the money paid in advance was returned. The money was refunded and the matter ended. Three months later another difficulty arose between the Church and the new stone cartage contractors, but this was met by an offer of 7 6 per load.

Financial Difficulties.

On the 8th of July, 1839, the Cashier-Deacon gave notice that the building material ordered from England had arrived, and as the cost of this, together with the freight, was much heavier than had been anticipated, Mr. van der Riet was asked to lend the Kerkeraad £400 or £500 on interest. This application cannot have been successful, however, for in October the Cashier-Deacon gave notice that the coffers were empty. He proposed that the Government Bank be asked to advance the sum of £2,000, to be repaid in yearly instalments of £200, with interest. This was carried, but in December the Government Secretary replied that it was no longer in His Excellency's power to sanction loans of the nature mentioned by the Kerkeraad.

The First Memorial Tablet.

Dr. Fairbridge wrote on the 6th of July, 1840, asking permission to place upon the wall of the new church a tablet to the memory of the late Dr. Matthews, and he offered the sum of £5 for the privilege of doing so. Permission was granted in this instance, but it was resolved that in future not less than £10, paid in advance, should be accepted in similar cases.

The End in Sight.

Matters now began to proceed with more gratifying rapidity than hitherto. The building was steadily rising, for it is on record that the services of a foreman plasterer were required in 1840. The Kerkeraad could not procure one in Uitenhage or Port Elizabeth, and they had to advertise for a competent man in Cape Town. Furthermore, as the tower was nearly finished, and as the contractor would soon desire a settlement for the work he had done, it was left to Cashier-Deacon Tennant to arrange for a disinterested expert to measure up the amount of construction already completed. In December the interior work was discontinued for a time, and "the workmen were paid off and thanked."

The Contractor Insolvent.

Early next year the contractor, a Mr. Whitehead, became insolvent, and Mr. Brehm, who was appointed trustee in the estate, sent in an account for which immediate payment was demanded. Cashier-Deacon Tennant was absent from this meeting, but he was instructed by letter to prepare a contra account, containing the amounts advanced to the contractor. This was carried out in due course, and the money paid.

A Few Interesting Details.

At this meeting a bye-rule was established whereby any member of the Kerkeraad absenting himself from a meeting without giving proper notice, and also substantial reasons, should be fined £5!

In July the Cashier-Deacon intimated that he had sold the old bell for £22 10s., and suggested that this sum should be devoted to repairing the roof of the old church, which was in a most unsatisfactory condition. This was agreed to. Work on the new building was now recommenced.

By this time the town was growing in all directions, and, as a natural result, the members of the various religious bodies were increasing to such an extent that they began to think of building for themselves Hitherto, church-men and non-conformists had worshipped together under the same roof every Sunday, separating only when a minister of their own particular denomination paid an occasional visit to the town. In July, 1841, the Kerkeraad received a letter from the members of the Episcopal Church heartily thanking them for the grant of the old church for the monthly services held by the Rev. F. McClelland since 1825. A movement was now being set on foot to build an English church, but we shall deal with this matter in the proper place.

In July, 1842, Mr. Tennant, after rendering yeoman service in the capacity of cashier-deacon for many years, announced that it was his intention to sever his connection with the Dutch Reformed Church, and to join the Wesleyan community. His resignation was accepted with great regret, for he had filled his responsible office with conspicuous ability from start to finish.

The floor and galleries in the new building were completed in 1842, and the final carpentering work, such as the construction of pews, etc., came to an end in 1843.

We have now traced the history of the Church from its very beginning, and, considering the manifold delays, difficulties, and disappointments that had been met with, one can easily imagine the genuine relief and satisfaction when the building was at last ready for use. Commenced in 1817, it was opened in 1843, and, as we said before, infants who were in swaddling cloths when Mr. Moll's Kerkeraad first considered the great question were grown men and women, many with families of their own, when the historic ceremony took place.

The Church Opened at Last.

We can do no better than republish the following excellent account of the opening function. It appeared in the issue of the *South African Commercial Advertiser*, dated 9th September, 1843 :—

OPENING OF THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH OF UITENHAGE, AND TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV ALEXANDER SMITH.

(To the Editor of the "South African Courier and Advertiser.")

SIR, Occurrences of an encouraging and edifying character being in general but too rare, the following are two which have caused great joy here, and which we deem it our duty to communicate, that all who are anxious for the universal spread of Divine Truth, and feel interested in the success of Christ, and Churches, may be made acquainted with them, that they may be partakers with us in our joy.

The building of this splendid edifice having at last been completed, it was opened for public worship on Sabbath last (27th August, 1843), when three suitable discourses were delivered. Mr. Murray, of Graaff-Reinet preached in the forenoon from Haggai, 2nd chapter, 7th verse, and Mr. Pears, of Somerset, in the afternoon, from Psalm CXXII, verse 6—"They shall prosper that love Thee." Both sermons were particularly excellent, and concluded with a close and searching appeal on behalf of the funds. The collections amounted to £57 1s. 3½d. In addition a donation of £5 has been received.

Dr. Roux, of Albany, was expected to preach in the evening, but was detained by the weather. Mr. Smith filled his place, and delivered an animated and powerful discourse from Philippians, 2nd chapter, 15th and 16th verses—"Among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life."

The attendance was very considerable, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather—upwards of 700 persons were present; and though the services lasted seven hours, yet the attention of the audience was kept up to the end. May the Lord add His blessing to the labours of the day and crown our esteemed Pastor and promising cause with abundant success.

On the Monday evening following a meeting was held for prayer, which was numerously attended.

The building is of modern architecture, and affords accommodation for about 1,000 The strength, solidity, and neatness of the work, both internally and externally, is beyond all praise.

On the Friday preceding, a number of ladies and gentlemen in connection with the congregation met in the Government school-room, and presented Mr. Smith with a superb pulpit gown and cassock of perfect workmanship, and Dutch and English Bibles, with Psalm Books, elegantly bound. The gown and cassock were presented in the name of the lady subscribers, and the books in the name of the gentlemen. In addition to the above, the ladies of the congregation have collected the sum of £90 for an organ to the church The Bibles and Psalm Books contained the following inscription :—

"Presented to the Rev Alexander Smith by the gentlemen of his congregation, as a sincere expression of their affection and attachment to him as their Pastor and Christian Instructor—their Spiritual Benefactor and best Friend."

The presentation was made by J. W. van der Riet, Esq., Civil Commissioner, who, in a short but comprehensive address, pronounced a well merited eulogium on the character of Mr. Smith as a minister of the Gospel. Mr. Smith made a most suitable and impressive reply.

On the same occasion the subscribers presented the Consistory with a splendid crimson silk-velvet Bible-cushion and drapery, for which M. J. Potgieter, Esq., Cashier-Deacon, made a suitable acknowledgment.

By inserting the above in your paper you will much oblige, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

A CHURCH MEMBER.

Uitenhage 10th Sept., 1843.

The History of the "New Church."

We have already traced the history of the church up to the opening of the new building, and as a considerable amount of space has been devoted to this particular subject, it behoves us to pass on more rapidly now than hitherto, for as we proceed we gradually reach the times which are fresh in the minds of most people of Uitenhage living to-day. It was in 1849 that Mr. W. G. Bubb, who had contracted in the previous year to erect the parsonage and vestry-room, and to raise the roof of the new church, the contracts for which jobs had been drawn up by Mr. Attorney Innes, of Port Elizabeth, was warned not to delay with his contract, as he had suspended the work. He was warned again in December, that as he had not paid any attention to the Kerkeraad's request regarding expedition, his sureties would be informed of his conduct. The church, it would seem, was badly ventilated, and it was resolved to improve it in that respect. At that time there was no stoep, and it was felt that one should be con-

structed. This contract was placed in the hands of Mr. Alexander Accom, but he seems to have delayed the work somewhat, and had to be reminded of the necessity of completing it within a reasonable period. This was in 1851. In the meantime contractor Bubbs's sureties became insolvent, and Mr. Leonard Jones, a baker, became surety for him on condition that an extension of time was allowed him. It was at this time, too, that the necessary documents were signed to pass the transfer of the old erf to Mr. S. J. van Niekerk. At the meeting held on the 26th December, 1851, it having been announced that the parsonage was completed, the building was taken over by the Kerkeraad, the final settlement with the contractor taking place on 18th March, 1852.

We give here an illustration of the church and parsonage as they were at this period. The original is a water-colour painting which was executed about that time, and many old Uitenhagers will recognise the monument which stands in the foreground. It was known as the "Emmett Memorial," and we shall refer more fully to it later on.

THE DUTCH CHURCH IN THE '50'S.

In the minutes of a meeting held on the 5th of July, 1852, the first mention is made of the clock in the steeple, Mr. H. G. Taute, one of the members of the Kerkeraad, offering to attend to it at a salary of £10 per annum. This was agreed to, the Chairman intimating that he would ask the Municipal Commissioners to contribute half of this amount yearly. His request was granted, and to this very day the Corporation pay half the cost of keeping the clock going.

PLASTERING AND IMPROVING THE CHURCH.

In 1854 Mr. J. Clarke's tender for plastering the church, adding to the tower, affixing a lightning conductor, and otherwise completing the building, was accepted.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. ALEXANDER SMITH.

As we mentioned in page 21, the first Kerkeraad meeting over which Mr. Smith presided was held on the 16th of January, 1824, and he had laboured strenuously and earnestly from then onwards. But advancing age and bodily weakness compelled him to retire from active work, and he informed the Kerkeraad of this on the 7th October, 1861. His resignation, as may easily be imagined, was accepted with the deepest regret, but, as a matter of fact, he did not actually retire until more than a year later, when the following letter was received from the Colonial Office :—

COLONIAL OFFICE, Capetown,
31st December, 1862.

SIR, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that he has been pleased to authorise the name of the Rev. Alexander Smith, minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Uitenhage, being placed on the *retired* list from the 1st prox., and, in accordance with Section No. 212 of the Church Regulations, I have h reby to convey to the Coasistory of Uitenhage the permission of His Excellency to call a minister in his room and stead.

I have the hon ur to be, Sir,
Your bedient servant,
L. ADAMSON.
pro Colonial Secretary.

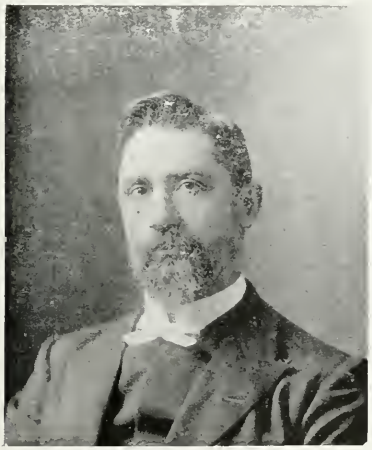
The Secretary of the Consistory of the
Dutch Reformed Church, Uitenhage.

On the 16th of March, 1863, the Rev. Mr. Roux, of Riebeek, Albany District, took the chair at the Kerkeraad meeting, and Mr. Smith then announced to the members that the Governor had accepted his resignation and allowed him a pension of £200 per annum for life. He then took an affectionate leave of the Raad, over whose deliberations he had presided for nearly forty years, and, after what was doubtless a touching scene, left the room. The next step was to elect Mr. Smith's successor, and two candidates were balloted for—the Revs. W. F. Heugh and A. J. Steytler—and as Mr. Steytler received by far the larger number of votes, he was formally "called." He accepted, and remained here for eighteen years, and accomplished some excellent work. The chief event which characterised his ministry, perhaps, was the lengthy contest which took place between himself and his parishioners regarding the alteration of the interior arrangements of the building. The Kerkeraad was strongly against this, and after a stubborn fight he at last got his way. The two side galleries were taken down, and the pulpit moved from the east wall to where it now stands. The seats were

then shifted round so as to face it, and the entrance changed. Otherwise, matters progressed much as they do to-day, and there are but few incidents in the later history of the church possessing sufficient interest to render special mention of them in this work necessary. Mr. Steytler left for Capetown in 1881, and was succeeded by the Rev. J. H. Hofmeyr, M.A., who only remained here for five years and then took up a position as Deputy Inspector of Schools, which he still retains.

The Rev. D. J. Pienaar.

In December, 1887, the Rev. Daniel Joshua Pienaar, B.A., was appointed Dutch Reformed minister of Uitenhage, and we trust that it will be many years before he leaves our midst. He has done some grand work, and has written his name largely on the history of the church. We publish a photograph of the rev. gentleman, and append a sketch of his career :—



The Rev. D. J. Pienaar, B.A

He was born in the district of Richmond, and attended the public school in that town, leaving in 1870 for the Stellenbosch Gymnasium to prepare for his future profession. In 1873 he passed the third-class examination, the present matriculation, which was the last held by the old Board of Examiners. The same year he entered the South African College, Capetown, where he attended the classes and read for the B.A. of the Cape University, and at the same time prepared for the Admission Examination into the Theological Seminary at Stellenbosch. In 1874 he passed the latter, and in 1876 the former, the subjects being then still so arranged that candidates had to take both classics and mathematics. In 1876 he returned to Stellenbosch, and after a three years' course in Theology he passed the "Kandidaats Examen" and left for Edinburgh, where, a fortnight after his arrival, he sat for the first part of the Exit Examination in the Free Church, which he passed; and six months afterwards he was successful in the second part. Without waiting to be licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, he went to the continent and attended for two months the Theological Classes at Utrecht and Bonn. In 1880 he was licensed, and entered the ministry of the D. R. Church in the Cape Colony, acted as assistant at Ladysmith for three months, accepted a call to Aliwal North, where he was ordained in June, 1881 (ten ministers taking part in the laying on of hands). At Aliwal he remained till December, 1887, when he came, after a second call, to Uitenhage. He has had fourteen calls to various congregations during his ministry, including one to Bloemfontein, one to Stellenbosch, and one to Johannesburg. He sits on six permanent Synodical Committees, and has been *praeses* (chairman) of the Presbytery more than once. He is a member of all local Public School Committees; Chairman of the Riebeek College Committee; Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Boarding Department in connection with the College; Hon. Secretary of the Industrial School Committee; and Chairman of the Public Library Committee.

The Church To-day.

The main characteristics of the interior of the building are its plainness and neatness; but the same may be said of practically every Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. There is seating accommodation for about 800 people, but even this is taxed to its utmost capacity during a heavy Nachtmaal. The population of Uitenhage in both town and district is steadily increasing year by year, and in order to cope with the ever increasing demand for more room the Kerkeraad is now considering the advisability of erecting two spacious galleries in the near future. Only one exists at present, and the choir seats and organ take up a considerable amount of space there. The organ, which consists of two manuels, with two octave set of pedals, is in reality what is known as an "American organ," inasmuch as it is pipeless. It was presented to the Church in 1895 by Mr. Henry Steytler. A movement will soon be set on foot to obtain funds wherewith to purchase a really good church

organ, the cost of which is expected to approach £800; and such an instrument would, of course, lend an additional dignity to the services.

Since the foundation of the Dutch Reform'd Church in Uitenhage its various ministers have baptised 15,300 children, confirmed 12,400 people, and united in the bonds of holy matrimony over 3,108 couples.

The Dutch Reformed Church, Uitenhage

This brings to a conclusion our history of the Church. We have dealt with it at considerable length, in view of the fact that its rise and progress is closely interwoven with the rise and progress of Uitenhage.

Bethelsdorp.

About the oldest-established station of the London Missionary Society in these parts is that of Bethelsdorp, or Botha's Place, as the farm was originally called, and situated about 9 miles to the eastward of Port Elizabeth, in a cosy position at the foot of a range of hills. This station was taken possession of by Dr Vanderkemp on behalf of the London Missionary Society in 1802, and peopled by about 160 Hottentots, the nucleus of which company he had brought with him from Graaff-Reinet, but which had been continually augmented by wandering Hottentots on the road. In those days the Bushmen were being hunted and shot down wherever they were found, and the Hottentots, although not looked upon exactly as slaves, were really in little better condition than slaves, as, when found wandering about, they were at once handed over to the farmers and kept in enforced servitude for a term of years. It was in the hope of bettering the condition of these unfortunate people that the London Missionary Society founded the mission at Bethelsdorp.

But Dr. Vanderkemp's ideas were just 100 years in advance of the times. It must be remembered that at this period the Uitenhage district was very sparsely populated, and the Dutch farmers were seldom secure from attacks of Kafirs, who were frequently joined by the Hottentots. Both these nations were then considered as savages, and the natural enemy of the white man. What wonder, then, that the Dutch farmers did not look very kindly on the location of a colony of their enemies in their very midst, and under the immediate protection of a body whose endeavour was to raise them to the level of the white man?

Beyond continual complaints to the Government by Dr. Vanderkemp of the alleged tyranny of the commandant of the district, Colonel Cuyler, and that gentleman's failure to help the missionary, we have very little on record as to the success of the mission, and, reading between the lines, we are forced to the conclusion that under Dr. Vanderkemp's *regime* the mission was not a brilliant success. He was no doubt a good, conscientious man, and put his heart and soul into the good work of ameliorating the condition of his *protégés*; but his methods were not such as would appeal to such a degraded race as the Hottentots then were, and he could not command their respect. All but in colour, he practically became one of themselves, dressing and living as they did, and even marrying one of their women.

At this time Port Elizabeth had not come into existence, and, beyond Fort Frederick and a few mud huts, there was nothing to show that the site of the present Liverpool of South Africa was inhabited. On the other hand, the reproduction given below of a sketch of Bethelsdorp published in the Rev. John Philip's "Researches in South Africa," in 1828, shows that the station had gone ahead in the matter of buildings, at any rate. And it certainly looked a much more important place in 1828 than it does in this year of grace 1904.

THE VILLAGE OF BETHELSDORP
(From an engraving published in 1828 by the Rev. John Philip, D.D.)

Dr. Vanderkemp died on the 7th December, 1811, thoroughly broken in spirit at the non-success that had attended his efforts and his failure to protect the Hottentots from what he considered gross brutality and inhumanity on the part of the authorities and surrounding farmers.

The Rev. J. Kitchingman, sen., succeeded Dr. Vanderkemp as head of the mission, and during his ministry a decision was arrived at to found another station on the banks of the Gamtoos River, and for the purpose of purchasing the farm on which Hankey now stands the respectable sum of 7,000 rix-dollars (£525) was raised by the inhabitants of Bethelsdorp.

The mission people made some show of advancement under Mr. Kitchingman, and a visitor to the place in 1825 tells us that the Hottentots there had discarded the "sheep-skin kaross with its filthy accompaniments," and were clothed in British manufactured goods. They also possessed among them 50 wagons. The village contained a spacious school-room, valued at 5,600 rix-dollars, in which the youth were taught to read and write both English and Dutch, and arithmetic; and a spacious church. Bethelsdorp (according to the same writer), moreover, possessed the "best blacksmith's shop on the frontier, or, indeed, in the Colony." Other trades also, especially those of mason, thatcher, and sawyer, were successfully carried on at Bethelsdorp.

Mr. Joseph Kitchingman, jun., succeeded his father as missionary of Bethelsdorp, and under his ministry the mission continued to improve; and he, again, was succeeded by Mr. Thos. J. Paterson, who only held office for a couple of years or so.

The Rev. Thos. Merrington, son-in-law of the elder Mr. Kitchingman, was appointed missionary about 1857, and he was ably assisted in his work by his three brothers-in-law and a sister-in-law. During the earlier period of Mr. Merrington's superintendence the prosperity of Bethelsdorp continued, two of his brothers-in-law carrying on a very lucrative business in wagon-making. Later, however, both the spiritual and temporal condition of the station declined, owing to the apathy of the people, primarily caused by the scarcity of water.

The main source of revenue at this time was the gathering of aloes for export, of which a large number grew in the vicinity. The older people at the station were industrious, and followed the teaching of the missionary to the best of their ability. Mr. Merrington caused a stone wall to be built round the gardens, and a sod wall round the public lands. The salt-pan was also growing into importance, was cleaned, and became a source of revenue, and is to-day the most valuable asset of the village.

In 1873 the London Missionary Society decided to partition the land and allot it to the younger members of the community, and gave them titles to the land. This decision proved the ruin of Bethelsdorp as a mission station, and those to whom the land was given proved altogether unfitted to act for themselves, and, instead of going on in the old way, and working for the common weal, they launched out as small farmers, first mortgaging their allotments for the purchase of oxen, and thus, not being able to repay the loans, bringing ruin on themselves and the station as well.

Mr. Merrington died in 1891, after 40 years' service at Bethelsdorp.

On the death of Mr. Merrington, the Rev. J. V. van Rooyen took charge of the station as consulent, and a year afterwards, in 1892, the Rev. T. S. van Rooyen was appointed missionary of Bethelsdorp.

During Mr. van Rooyen's ministry signs of progress were made, as he had taken young blood and energy into the place, and among other things,

he greatly interested himself in tree-planting; but it proved practically a failure, owing to the apathy of the residents and lack of sympathy from others who might have assisted him in the good work. Mr. van Rooyen also endeavoured to induce the people to refrain from mortgaging their ground indiscriminately, as they had been in the habit of doing, and in other ways worked hard for the general welfare of the station. He, however, received no support, and finally, in December, 1900, resigned the ministry at Bethelsdorp in despair. This year's census shows the population of Bethelsdorp to be 15 Europeans and 945 coloured persons, with 185 occupied buildings.

Enon. The tract of land whereon this mission now stands was granted to the Moravian brethren by Lord Charles Somerset in 1815, and is situate on the Witte River, a tributary of the Sundays River. The mission was at once established, and during a Kafir outbreak in 1819 it was destroyed and abandoned, but re-established on the restoration of peace. Enon has had a somewhat chequered career, and, strange to say, the authorities seem anxious to keep its history a profound secret—for what reason we are unable to say. The present missionary, the Rev. F. Rauh, has persistently refused to supply us with any information for this work.

Port Elizabeth and the British Settlers. Although this is a history of Uitenhage, we must nevertheless refer to Port Elizabeth in these pages, for at one time, as we have already shown, that town and district formed part of Uitenhage. It is a source of legitimate pride to the inhabitants of the Garden Town that Uitenhage is the mother of the Liverpool of South Africa, for the bleak and barren shores of Algoa Bay were uninhabited when Uitenhage was a flourishing village. The rise of Port Elizabeth has been remarkable for its rapidity, for, from being a mere fort in 1820, it is to-day the second largest town in Cape Colony. It will readily be perceived that if we attempted to do full justice to this subject we should fill a book twice the size of the present volume. We shall therefore content ourselves with a brief reference to the neighbouring town, for the sole reason that it once stood within the boundaries of Uitenhage. We have already seen how Fort Frederick was established and placed under the command of Captain Alberti (who subsequently became landdrost of Uitenhage), but the history of the place between that time and the year 1819 is very meagre indeed. The following is a complete list of the inhabitants in 1819, found among the papers of the late Griffin Hawkins, of Humansdorp (founder of the present well-known firm of John Owen Smith & Co.—once Hawkins & Smith), and presented some 20 years ago to the Port Elizabeth Public Library by Mr. W. S. J. Sellick :—

Commandant Evatt
Henry Evatt, his son
Creig
— Carn
Nicholl & Chabeau
— Welsford
Benjamin Green
Hunt
— Frames
— McPhail
Board
Fortuin
Nicholaas Hitje
Dunn
Gambol Dunn
— Burchell
Gambol Hartman
— Dijsel
Thomas Griffin
— Brown
Gurney
Smith
— Hachelaveri
Younger
John Younger
Thomas Mollineaux
James Reid
Joe de Mell and Joe Hubband
— Kane
La Harpe
Minto
Griffin Hawkins (Visitor.)

THE 1820 SETTLERS.

The termination of the Continental wars in the year 1815, which enabled Great Britain to disband her large military and naval armaments, and restored to other countries a portion of the commerce and carrying trade she had exclusively enjoyed during the long contest, threw out of employment a very large proportion of her population, and caused throughout the United Kingdom extensive and alarming distress: and however glorious the close of that eventful struggle, it was darkened by intense suffering, aggravated by unproductive seasons, the result of which, but for the adoption of some adequate remedy, was to be extremely dreaded.

During this period of national distress, and the political excitement it naturally produced, the minds of the British Cabinet had been anxiously and frequently engaged in divising palliatives for the evil, and at length colonization was fixed upon as the only effectual remedy. The question of relief was therefore reduced to the simple choice of the future destination of the settlers who were proposed to be sent away, and the Cape of Good Hope, to which attention had been directed from the time of Mr. Barrow, was fixed upon as the scene of the experiment. This decision reflected upon its originators the highest credit for sound policy, in engrafting its native-born subjects on a conquered possession, and in diffusing a free labouring population among a community of slave-owners. The selection of a settlement like the Cape, blessed with a delightful climate, and from its long prior establishment capable of supplying

the wants of the new comers, and thus preventing much of that misery insparable from the formation of a new colony, was also characterized by human foresight.

In July, 1819, the Commons House of Parliament granted a sum of £50,000 to carry the emigration into effect. The promulgation of the intentions of Government was received and embraced with avidity by the public, and the applications for permission to avail themselves of the facilities offered were numerous beyond expectation. The number to be accepted was limited to 4,000 souls, and the disappointment of the unsuccessful candidates, amounting to above 90,000, was bitter beyond description.

The two first vessels with the adventurers (the *Chapman* and *Nautilus* transports) left the English coast on the 9th December, 1819, and arrived in Table Bay on the 17th March following, and on the 9th of April they anchored in Algoa Bay on the eastern frontier, where the anxious emigrants safely debarked on the following day. From the tenor of the Government circulars it was generally supposed by the emigrants that they were to be settled around the port, but on their arrival, to their annoyance, they learned that their ultimate location was fixed above 100 miles inland, a discovery more particularly unpalatable when they found that their transport thither was to be at their own cost. Wagons were liberally supplied, however, by the Government, and the first party of the immigration was located on the 26th April near the mouth of the Great Fish River, on the ruins of a Dutch farm which had been plundered and burnt by the Kafirs some years before. To this foundation of the British settlement in Albany the new comers gave the name of Cuylerville, as a token of respect to Colonel Cuyler, the chief magistrate of the district of Uitenhage, whose kindness and attentions were both fatherly and unremitting.

Before the middle of the year 1820 the remainder of the settlers had all arrived in the Colony, consisting in the whole of 3,736 persons. Two small parties had been located in the districts of Clanwilliam and Swellendam, in the Western Province ; but they were soon disgusted with that part of the Colony, and joined the majority of their countrymen in the Zuurveld. The whole of this large number of immigrants were landed through the surf in Algoa Bay, without the occurrence of an accident or the loss of a single life ; a circumstance which speaks volumes in favour of the port, which very unjustly had acquired a bad reputation. It would be ungrateful at this place not to name, as deserving the highest praise, the conduct of the Commandant of Fort Frederick, Captain Francis Evatt, formerly of the 21st Light Dragoons. This fine veteran officer waded through the surf, and landed with his own hands the greater number of the women and children. Nor did the old gentleman's kindness end here, for his house and table were open to all whose character and conduct deserved the attention.

A clever writer in an interesting and useful work, entitled "The State of the Cape in 1822," shortly after the arrival of the British settlers, did them the injustice to represent their anxiety to leave their native hearths as arising from political disgust. He stated that the settlers exported with them feelings of hostility to the Parent State, and that possibly the Home administration, mindful of the consequences which in the reign of the First Charles followed a prevention of the departure to America of Hazlerig, Hampden, Pym and Cromwell, encouraged this emigration of the discontented to a distant part of the globe. This cruel surmise had for several years the most injurious effects upon the character of the immigrants, and was only erased by the noble denial which was given to it by His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry in 1825. Now, it may be as well at once ingenuously to confess that the emigration of 1819 to the Cape of Good Hope, perhaps unluckily for the glory of the settlers, had nothing romantic about its character. It was neither encircled by the celestial halo of religious enthusiasm, nor dignified by the sublimity of voluntary exile in search of freedom ; it was not the growth of fanaticism, nor, to use the words of the calumniator, the result of the "fears of bereavement of political and personal liberty." It was, as far as the mass of the settlers were concerned, the emigration of intelligent and feeling men ; of men who had fortified their minds to undergo the separation from country and from kindred, fleeing with their offspring from actual penury, or its gradual yet certain approach. If Albany is destined to become the seat of a new empire at the extremity of the African continent, and to own an independent flag, she must be contented to trace her origin to those pressing, but not discreditable motives. The founders of Albany, in the words of the poet, abandoned their native home to seek—

> "—A warmer world, a milder clime,
> A home to rest, a shelter to defend,—
> Peace and repose."

The first years of the new colony were those of severe difficulties, considerable privation, and much disappointment, heightened by an unpre-

cedented failure of the wheat crops, which was not confined to the new settlement. The native tribes also exercised on their new neighbours those predatory habits which they, in common with other savages, naturally are heir to; and the British settlers felt galled under the restraints imposed by the Colonial Government, at that time in every sense despotic. Notwithstanding this complication of evils, the immigrants were made of too sturdy materials to yield to their pressure. They inherited the temper of their race who emigrated to America two centuries before—"the Pilgrim Fathers," who, under similar suffering, publicly declared in a manifesto to their Government, "that it was not with them as with other men, whom small things could discourage, or small discontents cause to wish themselves home again." In the failure of their crops the Albany settlers saw a severe but doubtless a wise dispensation of Providence, and they looked with an unabashed countenance and with full confidence towards their country for relief from the other evils with which they were then beset.

The close of the year 1823 was the most critical period of the new settlement; the plant appeared to be in the last stage of exhaustion; it had not recovered its change of soil and climate, although it was supposed to have struck root, and fears were generally expressed that its doom and failure were sealed. Exactly similar were the appearances and prognostics in the first days of the foundation of our noble American colonies, more recently of New South Wales, and still later of all those on the western and southern coasts of Australia. It appears, indeed, to be the law of transplantation, whether of men or vegetables.

The following year, 1824, is the era of the successful establishment of the new settlement in the eastern division of the Cape of Good Hope. The complaints of the British settlers produced a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry, by which they were nobly vindicated from the aspersions attempted to be fixed upon them for expressing English sentiments, and for demanding the privileges of their birthright, under an English flag and in an English colony. The same Commission recommended an extensive reform in most of the branches of the local Government, which has since been effected, and is still hailed as a boon obtained chiefly through the influence and instrumentality of the Settlers. The immigrants also obtained, though with unbounded difficulty, the legalization of a trading intercourse with the neighbouring Kafir tribes, hitherto forbidden under the penalty of death. Within a few months the articles thus purchased from the savages, consisting principally of ivory and hides, were estimated at the value of £32,000. The disease which had hitherto proved so destructive to the crops lost much of its virulence; native depredations were far less frequent, general confidence became restored, hope revived, and the Albany settlement commenced a career of success from which, with the exception of the check given by the Kafir irruption of 1834, it has never been for a moment diverted.

From 1825 to the close of 1834 the young colony made astonishing strides. Fine wool farming was successfully introduced by Messrs. Daniel, Griffiths, White, Korsten, and others. A direct commerce was established between England and the settlement by Messrs. Maynards in 1828. Our Albany traders had opened a traffic, of a very lucrative kind, with the native tribes, as far as Natal in the east, and among the numerous aboriginal clans in the north, to an immense distance. Our travellers had reached the Portuguese colony of Delagoa Bay, in one direction, and the Tropic of Capricorn in another. Our missionaries had carried the standard of the Christian faith almost as far as the traveller had set his foot. Population, building, stock, and produce multiplied, and the political and social reforms demanded by the new comers, for the most part, were conceded.

In 1820, on the visit of the Acting-Governor (Sir Rufane Shaw Donkin) to locate the British settlers who had just arrived at Algoa Bay, he ordered a small pyramidal cenotaph to be erected in memory of his lately deceased wife (Lady Elizabeth Donkin), and named the village he then founded "Port Elizabeth" as a perpetual token of respect to her memory. He records her to have been one of the most perfect of women. At this time the only buildings were the Fort previously alluded to, a small barrack, a mess house, the Commandant's quarters, and a few temporary huts of perishable materials, besides the original farm house belonging to a Boer of the name of Hartman. The trade was confined to the occasional visits of a coasting vessel, with long intervals between each voyage, bringing in exchange for butter a few groceries, and clothing and supplies for the military. Port Elizabeth was founded in the month of June, 1820, when the British settlers arrived. Captain Evatt was then commandant of the fort, and in 1825 he was appointed Resident Magistrate of Port Elizabeth at an annual salary of £90. We may mention that the settlers encamped behind a range of sandhills which then existed

where Main Street now is, and the centre of the camp was in the locality of Russell Road. Productive gardens were established near the landing place, and astonishing varieties of vegetables were produced. The Custom House and Post Office were established in 1825, and in 1830 the exportation of wool totalled 5,400 lbs. In 1832 a period of depression set in, and retrenchment became necessary. Consequently the magistracy was temporarily suspended, and the town placed under the jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace. Two years later the population had risen to 1,200. The erection of St. Mary's Collegiate Church was begun in 1836, but through various causes it was not completed until 1842. The funds were raised by means of a tax, and this is the only case of its kind in South Africa. On the 16th of February, 1837, five months before Queen Victoria ascended the throne, an ordinance was issued, on the proposal of Captain Stockenstroom, creating three districts, which were named Port Elizabeth, Colesberg and Cradock. The new district of Port Elizabeth was, and still is, the smallest in the Colony. For fiscal purposes it still remained connected with the division of Uitenhage, and Mr. John George de Villiers was appointed Resident Magistrate. The first jetty dates from the year in which our late Queen Victoria was crowned, and preceded the establishment of the first Bank by no less than nine years. In 1846 the population amounted to about 3,500, but one writer says that even then "the town itself was nothing better than what in England would have been considered a long, dirty fishing village. The streets were unconnected, exceedingly rough and irregular, unmacadamised, and strewn all over with rubbish of every kind, whilst here and there large stones protruded. Nothing had yet been done towards the establishment of public bodies. Very little was cultivated. There were no plantations or public parks, and altogether the town looked exceedingly barren, dirty, and uninviting."

PORT ELIZABETH IN 1846

On the 1st of January, 1847, the Port Elizabeth Bank was opened, with a capital of £40,000.

The Cape Recife light-house was completed two years after the one on Point Agulhas, and the light first exhibited on the 1st of April, 1851. The lanterns were specially made in France, and half the cost (£24,000) was borne by the British Treasury, as the matter was regarded as of importance to the whole Empire—the Cape *route* then being the only one to India.

The value of the imports at this period was about £120,000; the exports about £150,000. An excellent pile of buildings was completed about this time for the use of the commissariat and ordinance departments, and contained an armoury, the cost being over £14,000. There was a Wesleyan and also an Independent chapel; while the Roman Catholic Church was in course of erection. The town could also boast of a small court-house with public offices attached, and a gaol.

As we mentioned above, the jetty was begun in 1837. The landing of goods and passengers had hitherto been upon the open beach, through a high and frequently dangerous surf, by means of boats built expressly for the purpose, and which were worked by warps from the vessels to the shore. The inconvenience, expense, and injury to property by damage by sea-water induced the merchants of the port in 1837 to attempt the experiment of a jetty, and having driven fourteen trial piles alongside a wreck which had borne the fury of the surf uninjured for two years, they called the attention of the public to the expediency and advantages of such an undertaking, and formed a company for the purpose of raising £6,000, by 600 shares of £10 each. As soon as they had collected two-thirds of this amount the work was commenced under the direction of their engineer, the original projector. By 1843 no less than 352 feet of jetty had been carried out into the bay upon 160 piles, nearly the whole of which was floored or decked, while a stone approach of 210 feet, with solid abutments to the sea, had been completed. Another 100

teet were added, but passengers and goods were being landed on the jetty before that was accomplished. There are now two iron jetties extending to the seaward 1,152 and 840 feet respectively, which are equipped with steam and hydraulic cranes, and a perfect system of railway lines which lead to the transit warehouses and depositing grounds, and are connected with the main systems of the Colony. In the fifties Harbour Works were begun, in the shape of a breakwater intended to shelter shipping from south easters, but it failed in its effect and had to be removed. Sir John Coode, in 1877, submitted an elaborate scheme for an outer harbour, to cost £1,000,000, but this, although approved of by the most celebrated engineers, has not yet been undertaken.

The town to-day contains a very large number of handsome and imposing buildings. The Town Hall—an excellent example of the Renaissance style—stands at the south side of the Market Square. Behind it is the Resident Magistrate's Court, Public Offices, and Post-office. The last named is especially worthy of note, and is one of the most perfectly appointed buildings of its kind in South Africa. The Market Hall was erected at a cost of £70,000, and contains wool and feather markets, a museum, and a magnificent organ. Port Elizabeth can boast of a large number of schools and churches, while there are three well-laid-out parks. The water supply has hitherto been brought 27 miles from Van Staaden's River, but extensive operations are now being carried on at Sand River, by which the supply will be very materially increased. The railway which is to connect Port Elizabeth with the Long Kloof is being pushed on as rapidly as possible, and will be completed in the near future.

As we said before, this is primarily a history of Uitenhage, and it is impossible to do justice to so large and flourishing a town as Port Elizabeth in these pages. Our only reason for referring to it at all lies in the fact that Port Elizabeth was at one time in our own district, and was only a meagre fishing village when Uitenhage was a flourishing town. The rapid strides that have been made reflect the greatest credit upon our neighbours, and we only wish we had sufficient space at our disposal to trace more fully the history of the rise and progress of the "Liverpool of South Africa"—the daughter town of Uitenhage.

The Census returns of 1904 give the present total population of Port Elizabeth, with that of the various Locations connected with the town, at 40,676.

General Cuyler.

In the foregoing pages frequent reference has been made to General Cuyler. He was Landdrost of Uitenhage for many years, a prominent member of the Dutch Reformed Church Kerkeraad, and superintended the locating of the British settlers; and was, unfortunately for himself, the officer appointed to supervise the carrying out of the capital sentences passed upon the Slachters Nek rebels. He was, in fact, quite an historical character, and I this book would be incomplete without something more than a passing reference to him.

GENERAL CUYLER.

Jacob Glen Cuyler was born at Albany, New York State, on the 20th Aug., 1775, his father (Mr. Abraham Cuyler) being the Mayor of that city. The future general having arrived in South Africa at a comparatively early age, he entered the service of His Majesty King George III., and soon received a captain's commission. He quickly distinguished himself in the field, and it was not long before he was promoted to the rank of Major, and subsequently to that of Colonel. Eventually he was created General. In 1814 he purchased from one Booysen a farm near Uitenhage—the price being 1,000 rix-dollars, or £75—and commenced the erection of a homestead. It is still standing, and is at present occupied by Mr. J. G. Cuyler, a grandson of the General. Scarcely any alterations have been made, and to all intents and purposes the building is the same to-day as it was when the last touches were given to it by the slaves who were employed in its construction.

The General married Miss Hartman, who was of Huguenot descent. They had three sons, all of whom pre-deceased their father, and two daughters. One of the latter married Mr. Bernard, of the Old Zwartkops Drift farm, and left a large number of children, one of whom was the mother of Mr. J. G. Cuyler, the present owner of Cuyler Manor. She married the late Mr. William Armstrong, who

hailed from Berwick-on-Tweed, and had once been in the East India Company's service, and who subsequently became the first member of Parliament for Uitenhage. He died in 1839.

MRS. CUYLER

There are many conflicting reports concerning General Cuyler's personality, and, as is usual in such cases, the weaker traits in his character have been unjustifiably magnified and exaggerated. Hot-tempered he certainly was, but at heart he was the kindest of people. He could always be depended upon to administer strict and impartial justice; his word was law, and beyond that he was the embodiment of all that is best and most desirable in man. When the slaves were emancipated, most of those who had belonged to him point-blank refused to leave the farm, and the majority of them died in his service. His overseer, John Whitburn (a native of Surrey), managed the farm for no less than thirty years, died there in 1851 at the age of 87, and was interred a few feet from the spot where his master was to lie three years later. Few men had such faithful and devoted servants as General Cuyler, and this is surely sufficient proof of his sterling worth and estimable character. He knew how to manage the natives, and he was well-liked by them. Although a deeply religious man, he was at constant enmity with the missionaries, for he plainly saw that they were doing more good than harm. It used to irritate him intensely when Dr. van der Kemp and his Hottentot wife arrived in their blankets and squatted on his stoep until he had time to listen to some interminable complaint regarding the behaviour of some converted Kafir at Bethelsdorp, and on these occasions he generally gave the infatuated missionary a considerable piece of his mind! True, an attempt was once made upon his life by a native, but his assailant was half-witted.

GENERAL CUYLER'S HOUSE AT CUYLER MANOR.

GENERAL CUYLER'S TOMB

Perhaps the chief events in his career were the suppression of the Slachter's Nek rebellion in 1815 and the locating of the British settlers in 1820. Hitherto, a good deal of obloquy has been attached to his name in connection with the former episode, but the papers recently discovered in the archives have thrown an entirely different light upon the matter. Having procured a copy of them we are now able to supplement the information given on page 15, and are glad to do so, as it removes from General Cuyler's character what many people still believe to be an ineradicable stain. His report to the Colonial Secretary is dated from Uitenhage on the 18th of March, 1816, and says:—

> I had the honour to forward to you a hasty report from Bruintjieshoogte of having carried into execution the sentence as *fated* by His Excellency the Governor on the inhabitants concerned in the late rebellion. By this opportunity the Board of Landdrosts and Heemraden report the same to the Worshipful the Court of Justice. The melancholy finish of the transactions was attended with every precaution, and effected the deepest feelings on all present. An occurrence, however, took place which made the scene more horrid and distressing, and no doubt will more impressively mark its example on the minds of those inhabitants who saw it, as well as those who may come to hear of it. On drawing the fatal from

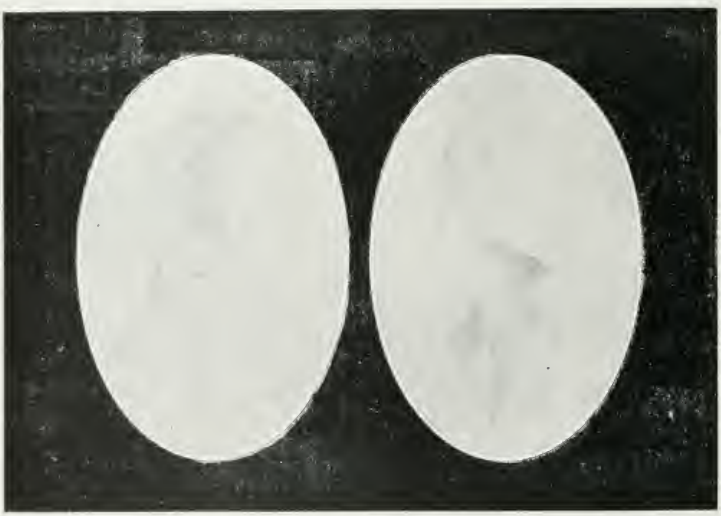
under the p[illegible]ers, tou[illegible] them fell to the ground in consequence of the rope (notwithstanding that a precaution was taken of having it doubled) snapping. They, all four, got up; one attempted to leave the spot and rushed towards the place where the Collegie of Landdrost and Heemraden were. They all four spoke, and at this moment some of the spectators ran to me soliciting pardon for them, fancying it was in my power to grant it. I cannot describe the distressed countenances of the inhabitants at this moment who were sentenced to witness the execution. The executioner came with rope only for one. I was consequently put to my shift to get cord, and none was to be bought; was therefore obliged to use some that was in the Government store here, which, although of sound appearance, proved rotten. It will perhaps be a satisfaction to His Excellency to hear that the prisoners one and all died fully resigned to their fate. About three hundred military were present, as were the Landdrost and Deputy Landdrost of Graaff-Reinet, and the Reverend Mr. Herold attended the unfortunate people. After he had prayed for them at the execution, they requested leave to sing a hymn with their fate companions and friends, and it was done in a most clear voice, and was extremely impressive; after which Stephanus Bothma addressed his friends, advising them to be cautious of their behaviour and take an example by his unfortunate fate. And I am convinced the example made will have the desired effect of preventing a similar occurrence, and completely show those unfortunate, ignorant people that it is at all times their duty to support their Government. So fully am I persuaded of this that I once more beg to intercede in behalf of the unfortunate three, viz. Willem Frederik Kruger, Willem Engelbrecht, and Andries Meyer, that it may most graciously please His Excellency to pardon them.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

J. G. CUYLER,
Landdrost.

On 20th of March, in consequence of Mr Cuyler's appeal on behalf of the three men mentioned above, His Excellency pardoned them.

In 1820 Cuyler was sent to receive and locate the British Settlers, and this work he accomplished to the entire satisfaction of everybody concerned. As a slight recognition of his services in this direction he was allowed to select a name for the new district. He called it Albany, after the American city in which he was born; and a little town that sprang up there was named Cuylerville.



PENCIL SKETCH OF MR. AND MRS. CUYLER
(Drawn by Major Andre while in prison awaiting execution).

General Cuyler's Tombstone.

The General brought his own tombstone with him from America. He was buried on the farm. The stone apparantly lay on deck during the voyage, for it is partially covered with signatures and initials scratched upon it by officers, seamen and passengers. The first part of the inscription was carved in America, space being left for the date of death. The following is the inscription, which appears somewhat indistinctly in the illustration :—

Here
Lieth the Body
of
JACOB GLEN CUYLER,
Born in Albany,
North America,
20th August, 1775.

Died the 14th April, 1854,
A Lieutenant-General
In the British Service,
Aged 78 years, 8 months.

A Historical Drawing.

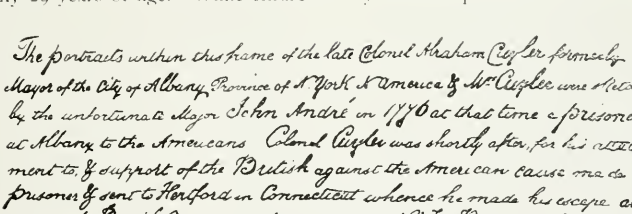
Col. Cuyler's house at Cuyler Manor is filled with mementos of him. By far the most precious of these is a pencilled sketch of his father and mother which was drawn from memory by the unfortunate André while in prison awaiting execution as a spy. We reproduce a photograph of this well-nigh priceless possession here, together with the General's inscription on the back of it. From this it will also be seen that his parents supported the English in the War, and that they, too, had their share of adventures.

The Sad Story of Major Andre.

There are few visitors to Westminster Abbey who have not been shown the monument erected to the memory of Major John André, an officer in the British service during the American War of Independence. The story of his death is a melancholy one! but its very sadness has made it historic, and, as the unfortunate man was intimately acquainted with General Cuyler's parents, we shall give a brief resumé of the circumstances which led to his untimely end, and will show how he comes to be mentioned at such length in "Uitenhage Past and Present."

He was, as we have said, a Major in the British service during the American War of Independence, and was born in London of Genevese parents in 1751, entering the army when he was twenty years of age. He rapidly distinguished himself at the theatre of operations, and was made *aide-de-camp* to Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander-in-chief. In 1780 he was raised to the post of Major and Adjutant-General of the forces, although he was then only 29 years of age. While André held this position an American General named Arnold, who had displayed great energy in the cause of the colonies, conceived himself unjustly treated by his colleagues, and proposed to the British that he should betray into their hands the vitally important Hudson River fortress known as West Point. As this fortress was the key to the American position, the British commander-in-chief naturally concluded that its capture would bring a long and costly war to a satisfactory conclusion, and, with this point in view, he appointed Major André to negotiate with Arnold. The former was provided with a flag of truce, and was sent to interview the would-be traitor.

Before the negotiations were concluded, however, André's boat was discovered by the men in one of the American forts, and they at once opened fire upon her and forced her to drop down the river. After this attack and retiral it was obviously impossible for André to return by the way he had reached the fort. He found it necessary, therefore, to pass the night in the home of his guide—a man named Smith—and next morning to make the best of his way overland to New York. All this time he was within the American lines. Arnold provided Smith and André with passports, and they passed through the enemy's ranks in perfect safety together. The English camp was at length seen in the distance, and Smith bade farewell to his companion, conjecturing, naturally enough, that all danger was over. But "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley," and André was suddenly arrested by three suspicious militiamen in full view of his own countrymen. He was carried back a prisoner, and a court-martial was held. The Major delivered a spirited defence, and a strong remonstrance from the British General was received. It was considered and recorded. The Major was found guilty of occupying the position of a spy within the American camp, and he was sentenced to be hanged. Every effort was made to save him. Sir Henry Clinton did his utmost, but General Washington was obdurate, and refused even to respite the con-


The portraits within this frame of the late Colonel Abraham Cuyler formerly Mayor of the City of Albany Province of N. York N. America & Mrs Cuyler were sketched by the unfortunate Major John André in 1780 at that time a prisoners at Albany to the Americans Colonel Cuyler was shortly after, for his attachment to, & support of the British against the American cause made a prisoner & sent to Hartford in Connecticutt whence he made his escape and joined the British Army under the Command of Sir W. Howe at N. York when he was declared an Outlaw and his property confiscated & sold by the Americans

When General Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga, 30 miles above Albany on October 1777 Mrs Cuyler & her four children, of whom the writer was the youngest & an infant in his Mothers arms proceeded in an open Boat down the Hudsons River 160 miles to N. York to join her husband. The subsequent fate of the hapless André is but too well known

These pictures were at the time of Mrs Cuyler's flight from Albany left with her elder brother Mr John Glen of Schonectady, where they remained till his death some 40 years after, when Mrs B. Rob came into possession of them & sent them to her Brother at the Cape of Good Hope

Cuyler Manor
Uitenhage November 1840

J. H. Cuyler

Inscription on Obverse Side of Pencil Sketch of Mr. and Mrs. Cuyler.

demned man. The people of England were more than interested in his case. He was known to be a bold and fearless soldier; his accomplishments were many and varied; he possessed distinguished military talents and a well cultivated mind, and he was the idol of his men. His condemnation stirred up a *furore* of popular sympathy for the unfortunate soldier, who, after all, had only done his duty. But General Washington was obdurate. The Major must die, and he must meet the same fate as was meted out in those days to a common pick-pocket. He was sentenced to be delivered over to the public hangman. There are few more heroically pathetic letters in existence than that which Major André addressed to Washington on the night previous to his execution. It ran thus :—

SIR, Buoyed up above the terror of death by the consciousness of a life devoted to honourable purposes, and stained with no action which can give me remorse, I trust that the request which I make to your Excellency at this serious period, and which is to soften my last moments, will not be rejected. Sympathy towards a soldier will surely induce your Excellency and a military tribunal to adapt the mode of my death to the feelings of a man of honour. Let me hope, Sir, that if aught in my character impresses you with esteem towards me, if aught in my misfortunes mark me as the victim of policy, and not of resentment, I shall experience the operations of those feelings in your breast by being informed that I am not to die on a gibbet.

I have the honour to be, Your Excellency

JOHN ANDRE,
Adjutant of the British Forces in America.

But Washington was determined that the brave Major should die as had been previously determined, and he coldly declined to accede to his dying request that he might be given a soldier's death. The erection of the gallows was proceeded with, and on the following morning (October 2, 1780), Major André met his ignominious fate with a fortitude that excited the admiration and melted the hearts of the spectators.

When asked the usual question, "Have you anything to say?" he replied, "Nothing, but to request you will witness to the world that I died like a brave man."

His unhappy end excited universal sympathy both in America and all over Europe, and the whole British Army went into mourning for him. He was hanged, as we have stated, on the 2nd of October, 1780, but some time after the war was concluded his remains were exhumed, taken over to England, and, on the 28th November, 1821, were re-interred in Westminster Abbey. Near his grave is a monument erected by order of King George III., bearing the following inscription :—

Sacred to the memory of Major John Andre, who, raised by his merit at an early period of life to the rank of Adjutant General of the British Forces in America, and employed in an important but hazardous enterprise, fell a sacrifice to his zeal for his King and country, on the 2nd October, 1780, aged twenty nine universally beloved and esteemed by the Army in which he served, and lamented even by his foes. His gracious Sovereign King George III has caused this monument to be erected.

The sculptor was the famous Van Gelder, and the sarcophagus shows a figure presenting to General Washington the above quoted letter under a flag of truce. The curious pilferer has been unable to resist the temptation to carry away parts of the monument as curios, and the head of General Washington has already been renewed three times. Wreaths are periodically laid upon the tomb to this very day.

So much for the sad history of Major André. We have written sufficient to show the most casual reader how great and universal was the sympathy evoked by his terrible fate. He occupies a niche in history, and the following additional details are therefore the more interesting and valuable.

We have stated that he possessed many accomplishments besides those of a military nature. Amongst those was a talent for drawing, and just previous to his execution (probably while awaiting General Washington's reply) his facile pencil traced upon a sheet of brown-tinted paper a sketch from memory of General Cuyler's father and mother, who were numbered amongst his closest and most intimate friends. The sketch in question was given to them after the Major's death, and is still preserved—an almost priceless treasure—at Cuyler Manor, near Uitenhage. We have been enabled through the ready courtesy of Mr. J. G. Cuyler to reproduce it in these pages, together with a *fac simile* of the inscription (in General Cuyler's handwriting) which is pasted on the back of the picture.

As will be seen, the date of Major André's execution as given by General Cuyler does not tally with the authenticated statements, and shows a discrepancy of four years. This is accounted for by the fact that the inscription was not written until 60 years had elapsed since the incident took place, and under all the circumstances such an error is excusable.

Rose Lane Church.

More than a century ago the agents of the London Missionary Society were labouring at Bethelsdorp, and as their work developed, various parts of the district were visited by them in order to extend the blessings of the Gospel of Christ. Groups of natives, living along the banks of the Zwartkops and Elands Rivers, were reached by these itinerating missionaries, and eventually a station was established at what shortly afterwards was named "Uitenhage." As the fertile valleys of Uitenhage became known, the population speedily increased, and with it the need for a more settled state of things.

A few biographical items, culled from the Missionary Registrar of the London Missionary Society, relating to its representatives in this town, will speak for themselves :—

Christopher Sass, born in Prussia, 1772, studied in Berlin, arrived in Capetown September 13, 1811, proceeded at once to Namaqualand, but shortly afterwards left for Capt. Cornelius Kok's kraal, Silver Fountain. In 1820 he removed to Campbell, and from thence to Griquatown. Disastrous events occurring there, together with ill-health, led him to retire to Bethelsdorp. Remaining there but a short time, he was, in 1828, removed to Uitenhage. From this time the Church became independent of Bethelsdorp, and managed its own affairs.

George Messer, born in Hesse, Germany, 1773, ordained in the Lutheran Church, London, sailed June 21, 1811, arrived in Capetown September 13, 1811. He was first stationed at a Hottentot kraal near Swellendam, removed to Bethelsdorp in 1815, thence to Pacaltsdorp to 1819, to Hankey in 1823, where he laboured until September 1, 1831, when he removed to Uitenhage. He laboured in this town until he retired from active service in 1842. Mrs. Messer died in April the following year, and was buried in the Dutch Reformed Church cemetery. Mr. Messer died June 7, 1845, age 72.

William Elliot was born at Sheffield, September 22, 1792. He arrived in Capetown in 1821, and after various experimental labours in different parts of the globe, became an agent of the London Missionary Society in South Africa in 1826. He was employed severally at Zuurbraak, district Caledon, at the Paarl, at Uitenhage, and Georgetown, where he remained till death summoned him to his reward in the 67th year of his age, and the 27th of his missionary life. The children of this variously gifted man have made his name honoured in Cape Colony. One son was for many years the General Manager of the Cape Government Railways, and another, the eldest, a well-known solicitor in Port Elizabeth.

Thomas James Paterson was born in Edinburgh May 9, 1814. Having prepared himself by studies in his native city, he went to South Africa in 1840, at the invitation of Sir John Herschel, who drafted the first educational scheme for the Colony and made his own selection of men to work out his scheme; one of whom was Mr. Paterson. After having served the cause of education in Georgetown and Graaff-Reinet, Mr. Paterson joined the London Missionary Society in 1845 and took charge of its station at Bethelsdorp. He was ordained at that place January 26, 1847, and was then appointed to Uitenhage, where he remained till 1882, when he retired from the active ministry. During his last years he resided at Port Elizabeth, and made himself serviceable in the occasional supply of local pulpits, until failing strength compelled him to join those who "only stand and wait." He passed away in December, 1894, at the ripe age of 85.

ROSE LANE CHURCH.

Rose Lane Church, originally known as Union Chapel, holds the proud position of being the mother of all Protestant churches here except the Dutch Reformed Church. For many years these were the only places of worship in the town.

During Mr. Paterson's ministry the church may be said to have reached its meridian. The seating capacity of the building was nearly doubled by an addition to the church, which converted it from a rectangular to a cruciform shape. The services were conducted in three languages in as many services each Sabbath. The musical part was of high quality, the congregation possessing the first organ that was seen in Uitenhage. The Rev. T. J.

Paterson developed the English work to meet the wants of the ever increasing number of Europeans that flocked hither. The spiritual life of the fathers and grandfathers of the present generation of Uitenhagers was nourished by the word of God preached from the old pulpit in Rose Lane Church. In the space immediately before it many of them were presented for baptism. The church records contain such names as, Allcock, Alexander, Albut, Bidwell, Cunningham, Calligan, Doubell, Deacon, Fish, Finlay, Fleischer, Gray, Gradwell, Harris, Jacklin, Juby, Kennedy, King, Kirkman, McCabe, McEwen, Nash, Nicholson, Puffet, Pringle, Stow, Stevens, Thompson, Taylor, Templeton, Varney, Ward and Young.

Up to the early fifties the Christians belonging to the various denominations were too few in number to support a church of their own persuasion, and the Union Church, Rose Lane, afforded a convenient home for such. The town continued to grow rapidly, and it only required time before these Christians left their temporary home in Union Church for a more permanent one elsewhere honoured with a distinctive name of its own. The first to have its own edifice was, we believe, the Episcopal section; then followed the Wesleyan, and lastly the Congregational.

In the same way the native congregations of the town were first nourished here, subsequently attaining a separate existence.

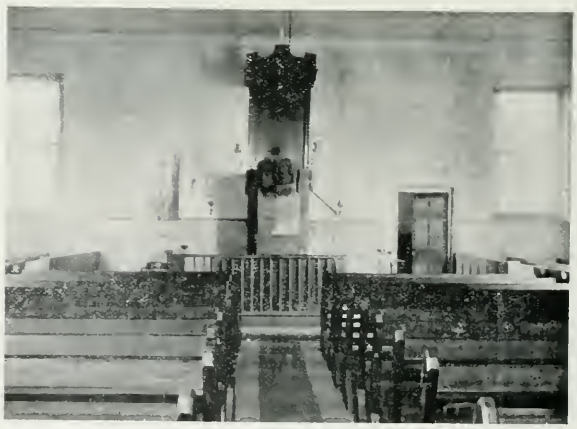
The mixed communities of Christians, as they became numerically strong, divided off, the Native on lingual, and the European on denominational lines. As in the realm of nature, so in the realm of grace, daughters have been known to outgrow their mothers. They would, however, be unnatural parents that followed their children with an envious eye. We, the old folk, remain in the old home while our children have entered into more stately structures. We wish them peace.

The Rev. James van Rooyen assisted, and then succeeded Mr. Paterson; but his labours were considerably hampered by a spirit of dissension, which greatly divided the people. Matters went from bad to worse. At last the London Missionary Society stepped in and resumed its dormant rights over the church property. The Rev. John Mackenzie, of Bechuanaland fame, and author of "Austral Africa," was sent to put an end to these unhappy disturbances. He opened correspondence with the Rev. T. Gamble, of Heidelberg, C. C., inviting him to assist the London Missionary Society and the executive of the Congregational Union in the work of establishing peace. Mr. Gamble commenced the difficult task of reconstructing the church life and work in July, 1897. At the induction service the building was well filled. The Rev. J. Mackenzie, representing the London Missionary Society, took the chair, and on the platform were present the Revds. W. Dower and W. Friend, of Port Elizabeth; the Revds. D. J. Pienaar, G. P. Ferguson, S. Sihunu, and N. Matodlana. The laity were represented by Messrs. C. Kayser, C. Mackay, and others.

The order and period of service of the successive ministers of Rose Lane Church are as follows:—

Revd. Christopher Sass	...	1828—1830
,, J. G. Messer	...	1831—1838
,, William Elliott	...	1839—1846
,, Thomas J. Paterson	...	1847—1882
,, James van Rooyen	...	1884—1896
,, Thomas Gamble	...	1897—

The London Missionary Society's property consists of Lot 25, being one of the original erven into which the town was divided. The lower end, bordering on Baird Street, was the gift of the Governor, Sir Lowry Cole, December 11, 1832. The portion bordering on John Street was obtained



ROSE LANE CHURCH (INTERIOR).

from Dr. Rose-Innes, the first Superintendent-General of Education of the Colony. Hence its name *Rose* Lane, though it is believed by some to have taken its name from the beautiful rose hedge that for many years was the admiration of the passers by.

The manse was much frequented in days gone by, being a place of call for the earliest missionaries and travellers, such as Campbell, Freeman, Moffat, Livingstone, etc. In it Sir Charles Elliott was born ; and in it rested Prof. Henry Drummond on his emerging from his researches in Central Africa. A lad born in the manse was the college chum of Henry Drummond, and before his return to England he visited the place of the birth and burial of the friend whom he had "loved long since, but lost awhile." Twice the biographer of Drummond refers to his stay in Uitenhage.

Rev. Thomas Gamble.

In the church records are found documents issued by the now defunct Matrimonial Court held periodically at Uitenhage, which illustrate the old adage "The course of true love never did run smooth." The swain, after having succeeded in persuading his sweetheart to "name the happy day" had to further coax her into accompanying him to appear before the Matrimonial Court to have their betrothal and intending marriage registered. After having satisfied the court of the genuineness of their intentions, a new difficulty confronted them, which under other circumstances would have cooled their affection. Things moved slowly in those days. The ministers on a tour of pastoral visitation were months absent, and in case of the death of a minister it was frequently a year before a new one was settled. The couples, whose love story reached a climax during such intervals, were provided with a document from the Matrimonial Court, which allowed them to invoke the aid of any passing clergyman to consummate their happiness. The following is a sample of these documents. The outer wrapper bears these words :—

> This stamp covers the written certificate for the solemnization of the marriage between John Fuller, bachelor, and Hilda Howles, spinster.

Inside we find the following :—

> In the Matrimonial Court holden in and for the district of Uitenhage on this 5th November, 1834.
>
> John Fuller
> and
> Hilda Howles,
>
> having appeared before this Court with the certificate of the due publication of their banns for the purpose of having their intended marriage registered, and having satisfactorily answered the questions put to them by the said Court, permission is hereby granted to any ordained clergyman in the Colony to solemnize the said marriage according to law.
>
> Wm. Cradock Cuyler,
> Member and Clerk of the said Court.

This relic of the old system that obtained during the Dutch and early English occupation was superseded by order of Her Majesty in Council, 1838, whereby it was enacted that the registration of a marriage by the officiating clergyman should be legal in Cape Colony. This was accomplished by transmitting direct to the Deeds Office, Capetown, a duplicate copy containing the original signatures of the contracting parties.

Another document gives evidence that some, at least, among the slave owners of the past encouraged legal marriage among those too often regarded by their masters as soulless chattels instead of human beings. It reads thus :—

> Achilles and Manisa, slaves of Col. Jacob Glen Cuyler, of the district of Uitenhage, have produced to me their master's consent in writing : these presents are therefore to authorise the Reverend Mr. Messer of said town to unite these persons in holy matrimony.
>
> W. de Villiers.
> Assistant Protector of Slaves.
>
> Uitenhage, the 10th April, 1834.

Hankey. The London Missionary Society's station at Hankey was founded in 1822, and consists of a magnificent stretch of land extending along either bank of the Gamtoos River, about 18 miles from Humansdorp. The original farm was purchased for £1,500, and the Mission was intended as an outlet for the surplus Hottentot population of the district. The farm consisted partly of pasture land and partly of land which by irrigation could be made fertile and fruitful. The establishment of this Mission was mainly brought about by the residents of Bethelsdorp, another and older station of the London Missionary Society (referred to in a previous page), who among them subscribed £500 of the purchase price. The extent of the new mission station at Hankey was 4,100 acres, or 2,050 morgen. The first European

worker was Mr. J. G. Messer, who superintended the station from 1823 to 1831. He was assisted by Mr. William Foster, who was sent there in 1825 to establish a school for children of missionaries; but in this project Mr. Foster was unsuccessful, and after a very brief spell of service he returned to England in 1829, and ceased in 1830 to be connected with the Society. Mr. Messer was succeeded by Mr. John Melvill, who laboured at Hankey till 1842, in which year Mr. William Philip, son of Dr. Philip, took charge of the

HANKEY IN 1845.

station. He greatly improved it by carrying out successfully the great engineering feat of cutting a tunnel through a mountain, thus utilising the water of the Gamtoos River to irrigate part of the valley. This work cost £2,500, of which amount the Society gave £500, the balance being raised from the resident of the land. In 1845 Mr. Philip was drowned in the Gamtoos River, and was succeeded by his brother, Mr. T. Durant Philip, who remained in charge until 1876, when Hankey was sold, and became a public village. The London Missionary Society, however, decided to resume for a time the spiritual oversight of the people, and the first minister who was "called" was the Rev. Harper Riley, and he was succeeded by the Rev. H. Kayser. Both left the congregation on account of their inability to get the salary from their people. As matters were going from bad to worse the Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, secretary to the London Missionary Society, paid a visit to Hankey, and in the hope of bettering things resumed possession of certain lands and effected an exchange of this by transferring outspan servitude to other lands. The late Rev. John Mackenzie arrived in Hankey on the 6th October, 1891, and did his best, on behalf of the London Missionary Society, to restore the station to a good footing. In 1898 he sent in his report to the Society, but, notwithstanding his labours to that end, very little improvement had been effected. Mr. Mackenzie died on the 23rd March, 1899, and was succeeded by the Rev. R. Howison, who died in April, 1901. His successor, again, was the Rev. W. E. Morgan. As the Hankey Mission church is not self-supporting, we understand the London Missionary Society contemplate disposing of their interest in the place at no distant date. The population of Hankey in this year of grace 1904 is 839, of whom 251 are Europeans and 588 natives.

Some General Details.

Having now dealt fully with several special subjects, we may turn our attention to some general details connected with the history of Uitenhage at this particular period. Stock fetched extraordinarily low prices, if one may judge from the fact that Mr. Brehm, who first planted what was long known as Brehm's garden in Cuyler Street, sold ten cows for the sum of of 108 rix-dollars (£8 2s.)—the price working out at 16/2 each. The purchaser was Mr. John Graham, whose two grandsons—the Hon. Mr. Justice T. Lydendoch Graham and Mr. John Graham (Secretary to the Law Department)—have shed lustre upon the honoured name of their progenitor.

Three Well-Known Judges.

No less than three of the judges now occupying South African benches are connected more or less closely with Uitenhage. We have mentioned Mr. Justice Graham; Mr. Justice Lange is another instance, while the present Chief Justice of the Transvaal (Sir James Rose-Innes) is yet another case in point. His grandfather, Mr. James Rose-Innes, was appointed, as the *Government Gazette* quaintly expresses it, "to teach the English tongue in Uitenhage." This was in 1822, the same year in which the gentleman in question arrived from Scotland. First of all, he filled the position of Professor of Mathematics at the South African College, then he took up his residence in Uitenhage for a short time (occupying a house situated on the site of the present Industrial School), and eventually became Superintendent-General of Education, which office he held until he was succeeded by Sir Langham Dale.

The Practice of Medicine in 1822.

The doctors in 1822 evidently had good cause for complaint regarding the inadequacy of their fees. True, a medical education was not so costly as it is now; neither were the requirements so

stringent. But the governing powers came to the rescue and graciously formulated a regular tariff for the guidance of the long-suffering medicos. It was published in the *Government Gazette*, and the maximum fees were fixed on the following scale :—

	s.	d.
Visit in town	1	6
Visit in neighbourhood	3	0
Visit by night (town or country)	9	0
Consultation	9	0
Bleeding, and all minor operations ...	3	0
Simple decoction	0	4½
„ „ 16 oz.	0	6¾
„ „ 24 oz.	0	9
Mixture or draught	0	2¼
Composing draught, or emulsion	0	4½
Dose of pills	0	2¼
Drachm of pills	0	4½
Half-ounce of pills	0	9
Above half-an-ounce of pills (for each 2 drachms)	0	2¼
One powder	0	2¼
Cutting and preparing herbs (2 to 4 oz.)	0	4½

Compare these magnificent fees with those that obtain at the present day !

Notice was given at the same time that, in order to avoid general confusion and serious mistakes, the *Pharmacopœia Londiniensis* should be used as the standard work of reference.

Two Appointments

In 1823 Mr. John J. F. Roselt (father of the late land surveyor) was appointed assistant registrar of slaves in Uitenhage, *vice* Mr. Honoratus F. W. Maynier (whose grandson is still the Chief Constable of Humansdorp).

Later on, Mr. Stadel was appointed Secretary and Vendue-master for the district of Uitenhage, Mr. J. J. F. Roselt taking over his office.

The Government's Thanks.

In December, 1823, the Government publicly thanked, through the medium of the *Gazette*, Commandant Muller and the Uitenhage burghers for the services they had rendered in patrolling the Albany district and clearing it of the marauding Kafirs who had been giving much trouble for some time past.

The Drostdy. One of the most ancient and historic buildings in Uitenhage is the Drostdy, which stands at the east end of Caledon Street. It was built during General Cuyler's tenure of office here, and is a typical example of the style of architecture adopted in the early days of the nineteenth century. The walls are remarkably thick, and the rooms more than usually spacious and lofty. One of them is over 100 feet long, and this was used as a banquetting hall or as a dancing room as occasion required. The massive front doors are constructed of solid mahogany, and they have already done duty for nearly a hundred years.

The Drostdy has been the scene of many historical events, as may easily be imagined. When the trial of the Slachter's Nek rebels was in progress the members of the Court took up their abode within its walls during their sojourn here, for Uitenhage could boast of but few houses in 1815. Again, it was on the stoep of the Drostdy that the deputation, headed by the ill-fated Pieter Retief, interviewed the Landdrost of Uitenhage before they set out on their fatal trek to Natal. His followers were known as the Winterberg Party, and, finding that it was impossible for Mr. Stockenstroom to grant them what they desired, they left the Drostdy and shortly afterwards trekked eastward. Everybody is acquainted with the ghastly end that awaited them at the hands of the treacherous Dingaan. The unfortunate men, having overcome countless obstacles, eventually interviewed the Zulu Chief with regard to a grant of land. He received them kindly, and promised to accede to their wishes. Just before leaving for the main camp, however, he invited them to witness a war-dance. Being in high good humour, they agreed to do so, and squatted round the potentate. At a given signal the savages attacked the deputation, and killed every man comprising it. Some time later the Dutch exacted a terrible reprisal, and utterly defeated the treacherous Dingaan and his impis. The anniversary of this victory is still celebrated on the 16th of December, and is known as Dingaan's Day. While on this subject we might remark that the capital of Natal is partly named after Pieter Retief, the brave leader of the Uitenhage Party.

When the Kafirs became troublesome, the Drostdy was of course the head-quarters of the Commandant, and it was the custom for the various commandoes to assemble in front of the building and to march from there.

Eventually, however, the Drostdy passed out of the hands of the Government and became a private residence. It was always occupied by the Magistrates of Uitenhage, however, and they either bought it outright and re-sold it to their successors, or paid a monthly rent. In fact, our Drostdy formed a very strong inducement to magistrates to

apply for the Uitenhage bench. But the Drostdy is no longer used as a residency, for it passed into private hands some years ago, and has not been tenanted by a magistrate since. Externally, its appearance has been altered materially by the addition of a verandah, and also by the removal of the fine old fir trees which used to stand in front of the building. These, it is interesting to note, were planted by Mrs. Cuyler, who brought the seeds round from Capetown, tied up in a pocket handkerchief. The trees thrived and grew to an immense height, but one of them was blown down about the middle of 1904, and nearly wrecked the Drostdy. The Council then ordered the removal of the others, as it was found that the roots were becoming rotten. We cannot close this necessarily brief sketch of the Drostdy without mentioning the "mounting block" which stands to the right of the steps. This was erected for the purpose of assisting ladies to mount their horses with greater ease than would otherwise have been the case. These pedestals may be seen in old English villages, but they are much more rare in South Africa.

Part III.—The Decade, 1824–1833.

St. Katherine's Church.

The history of the English Church in Uitenhage is a record of indomitable perseverance and of steady progress in the face of circumstances which were often of a most difficult and discouraging nature. As is invariably the case with religious bodies, there were periods during which the forward movement was temporarily retarded, but these intervals of quiescence were beneficial in many ways, inasmuch as they were always followed by periods of renewed activity and enthusiasm. When one project had been successfully accomplished, or a long deliberated improvement effected, the parishioners were given time to recover themselves, as it were ; and when the next scheme came up for consideration it was attacked with fresh vigour and enthusiam. Another factor which accounts in great measure for the flourishing position St. Katherine's holds to-day is the policy which has been pursued with regard to ways and means. "One thing at a time" is an excellent maxim, and the present condition of the church shows that the concentration of united effort upon one particular object at a time has been marked by the most gratifying results.

With this brief foreword, we may now turn to the early history of the English Church in Uitenhage, for which purpose it will be necessary to go back eighty years, and examine the records of 1825.

It was in that year that the Rev. W. McLelland was appointed Colonial Chaplain at Port Elizabeth, and in fulfilment of his duties there he visited Uitenhage at regular intervals. He conducted periodical services here, administered the sacrament, performed baptisms, solemnised marriages, and officiated at burials, the requisite particulars of each being entered in the registers of St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Port Elizabeth. Indeed no local registers were opened until 1840, and during those fifteen years matters proceeded in precisely the same way.

In 1841, however, a movement was set on foot in order to secure funds for the erection of a church, and also to maintain a clergyman, and, as was usual in those days, the Government was expected to bear the greater part of the burden. The English inhabitants of the town sent a memorial to Capetown, and were granted a site for the proposed building. A small sum of money was then collected, and the general public was appealed to for assistance. This, however, met with but little success, and a clergyman was not appointed until 1847, when in the April of that year the Rev. P. W. Copeman took up his position here as minister of the English Church. The Government granted £100 a year towards his salary, conditionally upon the people themselves contributing a sum of not less than £75 per annum. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel granted £25 a year, so that if the parishioners had been able to fulfil their part of the contract the rector's stipend would have been £200 ; but it appears that at the end of two years Mr. Copeman had only received £25 from the public !

He conducted the services in the old Court House for many years, but no record of the work or progress of the Church is now extant. It appears, however, that in 1847 the then rector officiated at three baptisms, one marriage, and five burials. At present the average number of baptisms is 100, while there are generally about thirty marriages and forty burials.

Although the services were still being held in the old Court House, the matter of erecting a church was not allowed to drop, and a protracted discussion took place with regard to the suitability of a site granted by the Government. This was the one eventually selected, but many people strongly objected to it at the time on the score of its not being sufficiently central. Their contention was certainly a reasonable one, but it was perhaps just as well that they were outvoted, for the church enclosure is becoming more and more valuable every year.

The Rectory.

On the 30th November, 1853, Bishop Armstrong was consecrated Bishop of Grahamstown, and shortly after his arrival in South Africa Archdeacon Merriman came to Uitenhage. He evinced the keenest interest in the affairs of the Anglican community, and with the greatest generosity purchased and presented to the church a plot of ground in Caledon Street and fitted up the building which is now used as the Rectory as a temporary church. Services were conducted there until the opening of the present building in 1870.

The Rev. P. W. Copeman.

Mr. Copeman seems to have been a peculiarly constituted individual. It appeared to be an impossibility for him to agree with the Bishop or the Archdeacon or his parishioners, and it was a case of constant trouble and unending friction between him and everybody else. It is not too much to say that he literally worried Bishop Armstrong into his grave, for some of the letters he wrote shortly before his decease show that he was "suffering acutely from mental trouble brought upon me by Mr. Copeman's behaviour." This trouble eventually killed him. Frequent references are made to this eccentric clergyman in the "Memoirs of Bishop Armstrong," which were compiled by the late Canon C. T. Carter. On the death of Bishop Armstrong, Bishop Gray as metropolitan took charge of the vacant diocese. Bishop Grey succeeded Bishop Armstrong as metropolitan, and he upheld the line taken up by his predecessor. In 1856 he ordained the Rev. W. Llewellyn and licensed him as minister of the parish of Uitenhage. Mr. Copeman then gave up possession of the present rectory, but he continued to hold services for two years in the old Library building. In 1856, however, Bishop Cotterill, the second Bishop of Grahamstown, arrived in this diocese, and shortly afterwards proceeded to adjust the affairs of the parish of Uitenhage. Mr. Copeman was appointed Colonial Chaplain of Alexandria, where he ministered for many years, and died in 1898. Mr. Llewellyn remained as the sole minister of Uitenhage.

The Building of the Church.

The history of the church from 1858 to 1876 was somewhat uneventful, but on the 1st of February, 1867, the foundation stone of the present nave was laid by Bishop Cotterill, and the cemetery was also consecrated on that date. Through lack of funds, however, the building was not completed until 1876. In 1874 the walls were only as high as the bottom of the windows, and people used to say the structure would never be finished. In March, 1876, however, the completed building was consecrated, and on that auspicious occasion a most eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. S. Brook, rector of St. Paul's Church, Port Elizabeth.

The growth of the town and the consequent increase in parochial work rendered it necessary to procure the services of an assistant curate, and the Rev. J. H. Truscott was appointed. His earnest ministrations are still remembered by old church people here. He remained in Uitenhage during 1884 and 1885, and many will be interested to learn that he is now Rector of St. Katharine's Church, Hatcham, South London.

His departure created a vacancy, and in 1886 the Rev. C. B. Jecks, B.A., who was then Rector of Christ Church, Burghersdorp, was appointed assistant curate to Mr. Llewellyn, and when that gentleman removed to Grahamstown, in 1892, Bishop Webb inducted Mr. Jecks as Rector of Uitenhage.

St. Katharine's Church (Exterior)

Owing to the rush to the goldfields, the congregation fell off somewhat between 1886 and 1890, but it has steadily increased ever since, and is now the largest in Uitenhage. This year's census, indeed, shows that there are 2,748 members of the English Church here, the Dutch Reformed Church coming next with 2,133.

When Archdeacon Llewellyn left this town he lost the Colonial Chaplaincy. He was the last of the Colonial Chaplains, and the Government grant of £100, payable annually to the Rector of Uitenhage, ceased with his departure to Cradock. In spite of this, however, the congregation succeeded in paying off a debt of nearly £700, in addition to which an organ costing £300 was purchased in 1894, while a large parish hall costing £1,000 is to be erected in the church enclosure within a few months' time.

The church ten years ago presented a very different appearance to what it does at present. The altar stood at the spot now occupied by the steps leading to the chancel—which had not then been built—while the organ was originally placed in the north-east corner of the nave—where the pulpit now stands. The surpliced choir did not exist until 1884, and even then it was but a very small one. It now consists of thirty-four members.

The Chancel.

Immediately after the pipe organ had been erected, great efforts were made to raise the necessary funds for building the chancel. The sum of £1,000 was collected. Mr. C. Smith, of Port Elizabeth, was the architect, and Mr. A. Gillespie secured the building contract. The constructive work occupied six months, and the ceremony of consecration took place on Sunday, 5th June, 1896. The total length of the choir and sanctuary is 32 feet, and accommodation was therefore provided in the nave for an additional 140 worshippers. The choir is raised by two steps and the altar by five. The style of the new portion is in complete harmony with the older nave, the walls being of solid rough untrimmed stone, reminding one of many an old building of our Saxon and Norman forefathers in England. The windows are narrow pointed, and slightly splayed and recessed inside. The east window above the altar is in three lights, the north wall being pierced by three windows of a single light each, and the south wall of the sanctuary by two windows of a single light each. The curtains covering the east wall, together with the dossal and "wings" of the altar, which add so greatly to its dignity, were all the gift of the Sunday school children. The chancel and its internal fittings cost upwards of £1,000, and were free from debt when completed.

The opening service was performed with great solemnity, the Bishop of Grahamstown celebrating the Holy Encharist, the other clergy present being the Archdeacon of Grahamstown (the Rev. W. Llewellyn), Canon Wirgman, of St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Port Elizabeth, the Rev. C. B. Jecks (Rector) and the Rev. W. C. Carr. His Lordship preached an eloquent and appropriate sermon to an enormous congregation, which taxed the seating accommodation of the church to its utmost limits.

Since then the chancel has been greatly beautified from time to time, a screen having been erected and several rich altar fronts procured. In a short time the chancel arch will be spanned by a handsome rood beam and cross.

The Curates of St. Katharine's.

In 1877 the rapid growth of Uitenhage rendered

St Katharine's Church (Interior).

it necessary for the Rector to be provided with assistance, and the Rev. L. W. Liddell was appointed assistant curate. He was succeeded in 1889 by the Rev. Leonard Moxon, and in October, 1902, this

gentleman, in turn, was succeeded by the Rev Arthur S. W. Moore, who left for England a short time ago after having generously presented the church and parish with the sum of £1,000—£500 of which was to be devoted to the erection of a church at Sundays River Valley to seat 150, £300 going to the Parish Hall fund, £200 to the new organ fund, and £100 for the interior beautification of St. Katharine's. Mr. Moore was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel D. Turner, who is still ministering here.

The Parish of Uitenhage.

Formerly the Parish of Uitenhage was of enormous size, consisting as it did of the districts of Uitenhage, Jansenville, Steytlerville, and Humansdorp; but of late it has been much reduced. Humansdorp and Thornhill were formed into a separate parish in 1893, while in 1900 the districts of Jansenville and Steytlerville, together with a considerable portion of Uitenhage, were separated from this parish, and now form the parish of Jansenville. The services at Redhouse are now conducted by the clergy of Holy Trinity, Port Elizabeth, and those at Addo by the clergy of the South African Railway Mission. The only out-stations now attached to St. Katharine's are Despatch and the Sundays River Valley. Monthly services have been held at the former place since 1886, and at the latter since 1893. The congregations at the Valley have increased so materially of late that it has been deemed desirable to erect a church there. It will be named "All Saints," and building operations will be commenced as soon as the necessary arrangements, which are now being made, are finally completed.

Native Work.

The native work in the parish of Uitenhage is under the superintendence of the Rev. S. W. Cox, of Port Elizabeth. In 1901 the Rector, finding that it was impossible for him to carry on this branch of the work, handed it over, with the consent of the Bishop, to the clergyman mentioned above, and services are regularly held in St. Ann's, Bishop Street.

General Items.

On the 6th of May, 1904, the Bishop of Grahamstown consecrated the new burial ground belonging to the church, and which had been purchased and cleared of bush, &c., at considerable expense.

The acetylene light was installed in the church in August, 1904, and used for the first time on the 14th of that month. It cost over £150.

The church has seating accommodation for 450, and there are 200 communicants.

The Sunday School children number 250, and the roll is steadily increasing.

There are many schemes for further improvements on hand, amongst which are a new organ to cost about £800, a new Rectory behind the Parish Hall, a rood-beam and cross in the chancel arch, and several more.

The Rev. C. B. Jecks, B.A.

The Rev. C. B. Jecks, B.A., was born in Norfolk, England, and came to South Africa in 1872, returning to the old country in 1877 in order to take holy orders. He graduated at University College, Durham, in 1881, and returned to the Cape the same year. He became deacon shortly afterwards, and was admitted to the order of priesthood by Bishop Merriman, of Grahamstown in 1882. He immediately proceeded to Burghersdorp, where he was Rector from 1882 to 1885. After acting as assistant curate of St. Katharine's from 1886 to 1892, he succeeded Archdeacon Llewellyn as Rector in 1893, and has ably and conscientiously filled the important position ever since.

Water Supply. The Springs from which Uitenhage's magnificent supply of water is derived are situated in the foothills at the eastern extremity of the Great Winterhoek range of mountains, about five and a half miles from town. Originally the Springs were within the boundary of the farm Sandfontein, the owner of which in the year 1829 was Mr. C. Dalgairns. In that year the Government, in the

person of the then Governor of the Colony, Sir Lowry Cole, secured, by arrangement with the owner, the portion of Sandfontein on which the Springs are situated, and incorporated it with the commonage of the town of Uitenhage, Mr. Dalgairus receiving a portion of another farm in exchange. The water, so far as Sandfontein was concerned, was absolutely useless, as the Springs were right on the edge of the farm, which rises steeply away from the Springs to the north-east.

There are about 20 different eyes within a circular area of 10,000 square yards, giving a combined flow of never less than 1,500,000 gallons per diem of beautifully clear water.

The overflow from the Springs at this time followed the natural course of the valley, the old stream bed being easily traced, in all its windings, down to and through the old farm, situated on what was the site of the Burger Camp, the ruins of the farm house being removed when the camp was erected; bending to the east it flowed across the Graaff-Reinet Road, and what is now the present railway, and continued south until near where the railway cottages stand; it again crossed the Graaff-Reinet Road to the west side and flowed down through the bush into the Willow-dam; crossing the road again it reached Oatlands, and from thence across Bay Road down the present storm water furrow into the river.

For nine years after the transfer the water continued in its old course, until in 1838 Mr. John Schlemmer, the then proprietor of Sandfontein, conceived the idea of diverting the stream from its old course and bringing it into the town by an open furrow, kept at such a level that the water would be delivered at the highest point of the then town.

This highly meritorious piece of work was accomplished in 1839, for which he received as remuneration a grant of land and water for irrigating the same (a portion of which now forms the Magennis Park); also the water power of the whole stream for milling purposes. The water was then distributed in a *pro rata* share to the different erven in the town as originally laid out, which at that time totalled about 170 erven.

Stringent preventive regulations were passed by the Commissioners dealing with all possible sources of pollution, as the water as it passed along the furrows was taken out for domestic purposes. Naturally, even the best regulations are broken, and it required constant attention to keep the water in anything like a pure condition; besides, all storm scourings found their way into both the main and tributary furrows to say nothing of cattle and Kaffirs fouling the stream on its long journey.

From this time Uitenhage dates its existence as a Garden Town.

In the year 1857 an Act was passed giving the Commissioners power to levy rates, and a servitude of 15- per erf was imposed upon all lands having the privilege of irrigation water.

In 1871 the Commissioners granted a portion of the Commonage, in extent 230 morgen, since known as the Upper and Lower Railway Lands, to the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage Railway Company, as a bonus for constructing the railway into the centre of the town, as far as Market Street. The lower lands, since known as Niven's Lands, were sold with water rights, although when these lands were advertised for sale in 1875 with water rights it caused a terrible commotion in the Commissioner's camp, one half being in favour of granting the water the other against it, Mr. Liesching being in this instance the great "protestor." Even in these remote times it was held that there was not sufficient water for the erven already entitled to irrigation water. However, after a great deal of meetings, discussions, and counsel's opinion, it was decided in 1876 to grant the water to Mr. James Niven, who had purchased the ground. A great deal of expense was gone to by the Council, and the 7-inch pipes laid from the Drostdy down Caledon Street, across the swamp above Oatlands, and carried some considerable distance over the lands on the further side of the Graaff-Reinet Railway line, for the purpose of supplying this water; but it was never used, owing to complications arising.

In 1874 the Port Elizabeth Municipality conceived the brilliant idea of drawing a supply of water from the Uitenhage Springs, and held that as there was a certain amount of leakage and evaporation between the Springs and the town of Uitenhage they were entitled, as being the big and powerful neighbour, to claim what Uitenhage evidently could do without, and tried to get a Bill passed through Parliament giving them power to pipe in the water to Uitenhage, and reserve for themselves the quantity thus saved. This rather high-handed proceeding was, however, defeated, the Bill being thrown out on the representation of the erf-holders that there was not sufficient water for the ground at that time under cultivation.

In the same year a Bill was passed through Parliament for the purpose of raising a loan to enable a scheme to be carried through for piping in the domestic water throughout the town, building

in a service reservoir and filter. This scheme was carried out, the reservoir and filter made, and a few of the principal streets piped. But the strangest part of the whole thing was that the filters were worked in exactly the opposite direction to what they should have been. They were constructed in the usual way, although of considerable depth, and the filtering material placed in layers ranging from large boulders at the bottom to fine sand at the surface. And here comes the anomaly: the dirty water was turned in at the bottom and allowed to rise, and flow off from the *surface* of the sand into the service reservoir. It is a wonder that the inhabitants were not decimated by typhoid or some kindred disease, as every drop of water had to pass through the accumulation of filth lodged among the large stones at the bottom, to which it was impossible to get at for cleaning purposes without removing the whole of the overlying material. This naturally could not be done every week. As a matter of fact it was done about every five years. It would have been much safer to have done without the filter altogether. This condition of affairs lasted until 1898, when the water was piped in from the Springs. The thought of what the water had to pass through in this so-called filter is enough to appal even the stoutest heart.

In 1876 the Railway Workshops at Uitenhage were first supplied with water, a quantity from 20,000 to 30,000 gallons per day being supplied through the town service pipes. This quantity was subsequently increased to 60,000 gallons per day, for which the Municipality received the sum of £1,000 per annum.

In 1896 a bill was passed through Parliament empowering the Municipality to raise a loan for the purpose of piping in the water from the Springs and building a service reservoir. Mr. Thomas Stewart, M.I.C.E., of Capetown, was appointed Engineer to the works, and in 1897 tenders were called for for supplying the pipes and for constructing the works. The former contract was secured by Messrs. Holland & Vardy, Port Elizabeth, to deliver on the testing ground 20,000 16in. cast iron pipes.

The second part of the contract was secured by Messrs. W. F. Malloch & Co., Johannesburg, for laying and jointing the pipes and constructing the service reservoir of 200,000 gallons capacity for the sum of £4,159 14s. 2d.

The work was commenced in February, 1898, and finished in March, 1899, a concrete roof over the reservoir being substituted for the original iron roof as specified, this work being carried out by the Municipality after having dispensed with the services of the Engineer; the total cost of the works completed being £20,000.

The intake consists of an oblong house, of which the floor, walls, and roof are concrete. The water is gathered into a basin outside, from which it passes through a grating into the interior, passing through baffle boards for the purpose of steadying the flow before it reaches the gauge; it then falls over the sill of the gauge into a pit, where it is strained through three pairs of fine copper screens into the 16in. main, through which it flows into the town, a distance of 4 miles 1,200 yards.

The outlet delivers into a distributing basin for irrigation water. This basin is provided with gun metal sills fixed in openings calculated to the widths for the different sizes of streams. There are eleven different streams, some of them leaving the basins as two and three combined, being subsequently divided at different parts of the town. The domestic supply water is drawn off at a point 300 yards further back on the 16in. main, and delivered into the service reservoir, situated on the highest part of the town, from whence it is distributed throughout the town mains. The high-lying portions of College Hill are supplied under pressure from the 16in. main direct.

When the scheme was designed the main was increased from 12 inches to 16 inches, the idea being to utilize the power of the water for supplying electric light to the town. Eventually it was found that about 25-horse power only was available, and as that was only sufficient to light the streets, the scheme fell through, and the power has never been used, although it might have brought in a considerable revenue.

In 1902 a scheme was laid before the Council for the purpose of utilizing this power and increasing the town revenue, briefly as follows: A reservoir was to have been constructed in the river near the pound, with a capacity of 90,000,000 gallons, filled by flood water. This water was to have been pumped up to the distributing basin and used for irrigation, thus setting free 500,000 gallons of Spring water, which it was proposed to sell to Port Elizabeth; the pumps to be driven by electric power generated at the 16-inch main outlet, and transmitted by wire to the pumps at the reservoir. The Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth Councils had a meeting for discussing the terms, and everything seemed favourable. However, the Uitenhage Council allowed the proposal to lapse, and nothing further came of it. The whole scheme included sewerage and electric light.

The Proposed Springfield Scheme.

Early in 1903 the Town Engineer, Mr. W. F. Malloch, submitted to the Council what is now known as the Springfield Scheme, the ground on which the dam would be built having been previously granted free by the Government for this purpose. The scheme was to supply Port Elizabeth with from one to three millions of gallons per day of filtered water, and the surplus was to be used for irrigation. Negotiations were again opened with Port Elizabeth, and the water offered to be delivered into the service reservoir in Port Elizabeth at a cost of 1 4 per 1,000 gallons, taking three millions, or 1 9 per 1,000 gallons for one million. This was considered too high a price by Port Elizabeth, and they declined to take any water, and closed the negotiations, preferring to proceed with their own scheme at Sand, Palmiet, and Bulk Rivers.

After this the character of the scheme was altered, and a purely irrigation scheme substituted, the idea being to place 3,000 acres of the town commonage under irrigation: the scheme to stand on its own merits, the sale of the land in holdings of from one to six acres, at a price of £100 per acre, being more than sufficient to pay for the whole of the outlay.

Scale, 1 inch to the mile.

The Dam

Plan of Proposed Springfield Reservoir.

Advantage was taken of the visit of the Commissioner of Public Works and the newly-appointed Director of Irrigation to the Eastern Province, and these gentlemen visited the site of the reservoir in November, 1903, the understanding being that plans and specifications for the complete scheme should be got out as speedily as possible and submitted to the Department for examination and report, after which the matter would be laid before the public for their sanction or otherwise. This work was taken in hand at once, and entailed a considerable amount of hard and difficult work, owing to the fact that expenses had to be kept down to the lowest possible limit. The work is now practically finished, and only awaits the sign manual of the Director of Irrigation before being placed before the public.

The Reservoir wall will be 90 feet thick at the base, 120 feet high from the foundation, with a depth of water at the wall of 100 feet, and 12 feet thick at the crest. A by-wash for overflow water will be provided, 100 feet wide and three feet deep. This will be sufficient to pass over the greatest flood, while should it rise higher than that, 500 feet of the central portion of the wall will also be made to allow of the water passing over the wall itself. This wall will hold up 3,700 million gallons, standing back for a distance of 4½ miles, the water surface being 275 acres.

With this magnificent work completed, and within easy reach of the town and Port Elizabeth, it should become a favourite resort of pleasure seekers. The numerous creeks and kloofs run in all directions for miles from the main body, and offer a splendid opportunity for boating and picnicking.

The water will be drawn off through a 36-inch pipe placed in a tunnel on the right side of the wall and cut through the solid rock. This will be reduced to 30 inch on emerging from the tunnel, and continued at this size into the town. Before rising to the pumping station in Mitchell Street, turbines will be placed on the main; through these the compensation water will flow into the river. Enough power will be generated to supply power to all the pumps for the high service as well as to the sewerage pumping plant, and lighting the town with electric light.

We are indebted to the *South African Directory and Advertiser* for 1831 for the following quaintly interesting items regarding Uitenhage during this decade :

The Civil Service Establishment

Resident Magistrate, Mr. W. W. Harding, at £300 per annum ; Clerk, Mr. J. G. Cuyler, jun., £120 ; Messenger, R. Gunn, £35; Clerk of the Peace and Assistant Registrar of Slaves, £250 ; Clerk, Mr. F. Gie, £120 ; acting gaoler, T. Collins, £45 ; 6 white constables at £28 each, 1 do. as overseer of convicts £30, 1 do. as messenger, &c., £30, and 3 coloured constables at £20 each ; W. Fisher, district interpreter and translator, £100 ; Mr. A. Tennant, assistant protector of slaves and agent to Orphan Chamber, £120 ; C. Wentworth, district surgeon, £150 ; J. Brehm, Deputy Sheriff ; Mrs. F. Alcock, postmistress, £30.

Other Officials

Rev. A. Smith was minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at this period, at £200 per annum, whilst the following gentlemen constituted the officials of the church :—Elders : Messrs. L. Janse van Vuuren, J. Uys, and J. Landman ; Deacons : Messrs. M. Potgieter, H. van Staden, S. Viljoen, A. Tennant, and D. du Plessis ; Clerk, Mr. J. Humphreys ; Sexton, Mr. J. de Korte. Mr. Thompson was master of the English Free School at a salary of £80, and Mr. J. Muller was field-cornet at £22 10s. per annum.

Public Buildings in 1831.

The Public Buildings at this time were as follows :—

A large building called the Drostdy House, formerly occupied by the Landdrost or Chief Magistrate of the district, and now in possession of the Commissioner-General of the Eastern Province : a Court House and Public Offices, that is to say, office of the Resident Magistrate, office of Clerk of the Peace, office of Guardian of Slaves, and office of the Clerk of the Magistrate : a Prison, capable of accommodating sixty persons, in which is a room appropriated as a Hospital for the sick poor : a house built for the Messenger, now converted into offices for the Civil Commissioner and his Clerks : a house built for the District Surgeon, but now occupied by the principal teacher of the English Academy : a house built for the Secretary of the district, now occupied by the Civil Commissioner : a house for the public Dutch School, now occupied by the Clergyman. Here is also a building used as a temporary Church, originally designed for a parsonage.

Institutions.

An Agricultural and Horticultural Society exists, and a Reading Room, established in the year 1825, and now conducted on the most liberal principles. There is also a Turf Club ; the meetings formerly took place twice a year, but now they are annual ; at the conclusion of the races there is a ball given by the Club, which is numerously attended.

In the year 1822 an English Seminary for the instruction of youth of both sexes was founded, and which has been crowned with the greatest success ; the number of pupils is now one hundred and sixty. There is also a school for the black and heathen, where ninety children receive instruction in the English language.

Musical Talent.

The ladies of Uitenhage are affable and musical in a high degree ; so much so, that there are thirteen pianofortes and one organ in the town, upon which may occasionally be heard played the sacred pieces of Handel, and other music.

The Zwartkops River.

The Zwartkops River is navigable for miles up for small craft, but a vessel of 100 tons, named the *Uitenhage Packet*, the property of Mr. Korsten, sailed into the river, and anchored in twenty feet water, where she remained for three weeks. At full and change the water upon the bar is about 12 feet. The anchorage outside the mouth is equally good with that in front of Port Elizabeth. This river abounds with fish, but as butchers' meat is remarkably cheap at Uitenhage fishing is practised more for amusement than profit, although it is well known that a thousand pounds' weight have been taken at one haul of the net. Mr. Gert van Rooyen, of Uitenhage, has taken in one haul two wagon loads, which he calculated to weigh two thousand pounds : we give this gentleman's name, in order to afford the incredulous an opportunity of referring to him.

Lead Mines and Mineral Springs.

About ten miles south of Uitenhage are Lead Mines, which are not worked. These are the only Mines of any description yet discovered in the district.

Seven miles east of the Town are two mineral springs, within a few yards of each other, on the Estate of Mr. J. van Nickerk : one is hot and the other cold ; and they have been resorted to with benefit by invalids.

Cattle Raising. The farmer deems it an object of the first consideration to be possessed of fine cattle, more particularly oxen. With them he ploughs and harrows his corn fields, and transports his produce to market. The breed in general makes good draught oxen, and one when fat will weigh from 600 to 700 lbs. The value of a fat ox varies from £2 to £2 5s. sterling. The cows are mostly of a very inferior kind ; they are lean, bony, and poor milkers, rarely producing more than two quarts per day, independently of giving nourishment to the calf, whilst many are barely able to support their calves.

The amount of black cattle and breeding cattle in the district is about 64,252 ; too much attention, therefore, cannot be paid to this important subject, as the export of butter, tallow, salt meat, hides, &c., is at present very considerable, and the quantity is daily augmenting. The supply of salt meat, for the use of the troops at the Isle of France, has opened an important field for the industry of the cattle farmers of the Colony.

Market Regulations. The following quaint Regulations for the conduct of the market were agreed to at a public meeting of the inhabitants held on the 3rd July, 1829, and the editor of the *South African Directory*, from which this is culled, having learned that these "judicious regulations were productive of essential advantage, as well to the farmer as to the buyer," considered it advisable to publish them through another edition of his Directory :—

1. That from and after the publication or approval of these regulations by Government there shall be held at Uitenhage, on all lawful days of the week, a Public Market, from the hours of 8 till 10 o'clock in the morning.

2. The proceedings of the market to be under the control of a Market-master, who shall exact from the buyers and sellers a strict conformity to the market rules. The Market-master to prevent collusion, and not to compromise in any way his duty to the public in his impartial calling ; not to be a storekeeper, nor otherwise engaged in traffic ; and to take oath for the due discharge of his duty.

3. All sales held at the market to be for cash only.

4. All articles exposed for sale to be put up separately, or in one lot, as the owner may choose.

5. The Market-master, until the necessary scales, weights, and measures can be furnished out of the proceeds of market dues, shall proceed to the residence of the buyers, and be present at the discharge of the articles bought, and see them weighed or measured in his presence ; and it shall not be imperative on the parties to receive or make payments unless the Market-master shall have seen the articles so weighed or measured.

6. It shall not be imperative on the farmer to accept the highest offers which may be made for his produce ; but should he withdraw from the market without selling the same, he shall pay the market duties for the seller's proportion on the highest offer made to him.

7. The seller may remain on the market from day to day for the purpose of effecting sales, if he think fit, paying daily to the Market-master the fees which may accrue.

8. Differences or disputes to be decided by the Market-master, or by appeal to the Resident Magistrate.

9. A register of daily transactions to be kept by the Market-master.

10. All produce brought for sale, which is not previously disposed of either by positive sale or engagement before entering the town common, shall be brought to the market, to prevent the present practice of hawking and exposing commodities for sale in different parts of the town by the country people ; and any violation of this regulation shall subject the intended purchaser to a penalty of 25 rix-dollars, which shall go to the Market Fund.

11. The following Tariff of Fees shall be exacted for the purpose of paying the Market-master a salary, and also any contingent expense attending the establishment of the market :— One farthing sterling on every rix-dollar under the sum of twenty-five rix-dollars, and one half per cent. on all sums exceeding twenty-five rix-dollars. Half of the above fees to be paid by the buyers and half by the sellers.

12. The amount of all fees and penalties, after paying any contingent expense which may have occurred, to be paid to the Market-master in lieu of a fixed salary, during the pleasure of the Agricultural Society of Uitenhage, to whom the nomination of Market-master has been referred by Government.

13. The Agricultural Society shall, as soon as the transactions of the market will show them the degree of labour or time employed, cause a scale of allowances to be made out for weighing or measuring commodities, and to be received by the Market-master.

In framing these regulations the Agricultural Society has been anxious to avoid in any shape an interference with the unquestionable right of the farmer or seller to dispose of his produce where, when, to whom, and in what manner he deems proper; the leading principle or object in view is to offer an inducement to the farmers to come to a public market, the dealings of which shall be under the control of a few salutary regulations for the mutual advantage of buyer and seller, and where the farmers are likely to derive benefit from purchasers congregating and competing with each other for the articles exposed for sale.

Corner of Caledon and Market Streets.

Part IV.—The Decade, 1834–1843.

The Catholic Church

Prior to 1838 there was no Catholic Church or Catholic clergyman in any part of the Eastern Province, and only one (the Rev. Father T. Rishton, Cape Town) in all South Africa. In February, 1837, the Catholics of Grahamstown sent a petition to Sir Benjamin D'Urban to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lord Glenelg) praying for the appointment of a Chaplain of their Faith. Possibly the Government, in turn, made representations to the Holy Secretary, for we find that the following year (1838) there landed at Cape Town, from the barque *Claudine*, Captain Kemp, amongst other passengers ; the Right Rev. Patrick Raymond Griffith, bishop ; the Rev. Father Burke, and the Rev. George D. Corcoran, Catholic priests.

The Bishop, after a short stay in Cape Town, visited Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, and left a priest at Grahamstown, but it was not till 1840 that he was able to send a clergyman to take charge of the little flocks at Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage. In March of that year the Rev. George D. Corcoran arrived in Port Elizabeth after a perilous voyage from Cape Town, the little steamer in which he sailed having been wrecked during a dense fog in Plettenberg Bay. Father Corcoran found the inhabitants of the two Eastern Province towns "of a very mixed description." "In Uitenhage," he writes, "there were then (1840) 1900 whites, 100 Fingoes and Malays, with about 50 Hottentots—total 2,050." Of this number only 9 were members of his flock. He received great kindness at the hands of Mr. van der Riet, the Civil Commissioner ; Dr. Fairbridge, and Mr. Brehm, Deputy Sheriff, through whose good offices he secured the use of the schoolroom in which to celebrate Holy Mass on one Sunday of each month. This schoolroom seems to have been rather dilapidated. Father Corcoran describes it as being "almost a wreck," and he had to spend seven pounds in having the windows glazed and some planks procured to lay "on the bare floor" in preparation for its use as a temporary Church.

He said his first Mass on the 3rd May, 1840, in the presence, to use his own words, "of a congregation as varied in colour as in creed." There were Anabaptists, Protestants, Unitarians, Malays and Hottentots, altogether about 100. "I was told," he adds, "that the attendance at every place of worship is small here—smaller than it was this day with me."

The number of his flock, however, went on increasing. In a few months it was 18. And as the months rolled by the numbers soon necessitated the services of a priest in constant residence. Accordingly, some time early in the forties—but in what precise year we have not been able to ascertain—the Rev. Patrick Hartigan was appointed Catholic Pastor of Uitenhage. He remained in charge till 1850, when he went to live in Port Elizabeth, and it was during his time that the first little church was erected—the predecessor of St. John's, Baird Street, that now serves as a temporary Chapel for the Marist Brothers, It was built on a site given for the purpose to Bishop Griffith by a member of the congregation—a Mr. Edward O'Donnell, an Army pensioner and a native of Limerick (Ireland).

Father Hartigan was succeeded by the Rev. John Joseph De Sany, concerning whose connection with Uitenhage we take the following particulars from an article contributed in 1900 to the *South African Catholic Magazine* by the Right Rev. Bishop McSherry :

"Of Father De Sany's early life we unfortunately know little, save that he had served in the army before choosing to enlist in the "militia of Christ," when he became a Canon Regular of the Abbey of Grimbergen, near Brussels, belonging to the Premonstratensians, a very austere religious order founded by St. Norbert, Archbishop of Magdeburg, 1120. In 1849 he volunteered to accompany Bishop Devereux to the Cape, and was first stationed at Cradock. In June, 1850, he was transferred to Uitenhage, which at that time had a Catholic population of 80, but with no school, and

a temporary church not worthy of the name. Father de Sany set to work resolutely at the task before him, and enlarged and practically rebuilt the house which did duty as a church. A small dwelling house adjoining was enlarged and improved into 'St. John's Presbytery.'" It is interesting to know, and illustrative of the homely and loving relations which appear to have been so characteristic of the dealings of the people with their pastors in those early days, that these alterations were largely accomplished by two local constables in the intervals when their duties left them free to work. With the Dutch residents he was a distinct favourite. They speak kindly of him to this day, and one prominent Dutchman still living in 1900 was wont to contribute generously to his works.

"The following memorandum in Bishop Moran's diary is the only account of the dedication of St John's that the writer has been able to find: 9th May, 1860, the improvements (commenced in 1859) to St. John's, Uitenhage, being now finished, the new church was blessed and opened on this day by the Bishop, Dr. Moran, assisted by the following Clergyman: Rev. John J. De Sany, Missionary of the district; Very Rev. Thomas Murphy, V.G., and the Rev. James O'Connell, of Fort Beaufort and Alice. There was a Pontifical High Mass. The Port Elizabeth choir lent valuable assistance. The cost of the improvements was £500, of which the Bishop gave £230.

"For some 17 or 18 years Father De Sany worked in Uitenhage, when he was transferred to King William's Town, where he died in 1869."

For his successor, Bishop Moran selected the Rev. John Fagan, of Port Elizabeth, who laboured here with great success for two years, when on the 22nd of June, 1869, he, too, was changed to King William's Town, where he still resides. Short as was the pastorate in Uitenhage of this good priest, it was enough to win for him the respect and affection of his congregation and of the townspeople of all classes. During his residence amongst us his zeal, prudence, and unselfish devotion to duty gave earnest of that great and eminently successful clerical career that has rendered the Right Rev. Monsignor Fagan one of the most respected churchmen in South Africa, and that has endeared him to the flock in every mission where he has laboured.

After him the Rev. John O'Brien was placed in charge of the Mission. He remained there till 2nd October, 1874, when he was transferred to Port Elizabeth. The Rev. Patrick Farrelly succeeded him, but seven years later Father O'Brien, on his return trip to Minnesota, petitioned Bishop Ricards to be allowed to return to Uitenhage. His request was granted, and an interchange of Missions was effected between him and Father Farrelly on the 29th December, 1881. Father O'Brien remained in Uitenhage till his death in June, 1895.

Rev. Father O'Brien.

The next priest in charge of the congregation was the Rev. Bernard Rizzonelli, a native of Italy. During his pastorship, in 1897, the historic mansion at the corner of Baird Street and Henrietta Lane, known as "Seven Oaks," was purchased by the Right Rev. Bishop MacSherry, and assigned by him as a residence for the clergy. But a much greater and more important event was the erection during this period of the handsome Church of St. Joseph on a site in Baird Street given by the Dominican Sisters of the adjoining Convent of Mater Admirabilis.

The foundation stone was laid on Sunday, the 20th of February, 1898, by his Lordship the Right Rev. Bishop MacSherry, when practically the whole of the Catholic congregation was present, besides a large number of their co-religionists from Port Elizabeth, and many friends belonging to the other denominations in Uitenhage. In attendance on the Bishop were the Very Rev. Father Ryan, B.J., Rector of St. Aidan's, Grahamstown; Very Rev. Father Gillet, S.J., Dunbrody; Rev. Fathers Rizzonelli, Hayes, and Bourke. The

rising masonry was surmounted with various flags, including the Pontifical flag, showing the papal tiara and keys, the Lord Bishop's flag, on which was his coat-of-arms and motto "*Spes mea in Deo*," and the national flags of England, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal. The ceremony, which was a most solemn one, was carried out in the manner prescribed in the Roman Pontifical, and at its conclusion the Bishop preached a most impressive and earnest sermon, taking for his text "Wherefore I propose to build a temple to the Name of the Lord my God." (3rd Kings, v. 5).

Some fifteen months later, on the 7th May, 1899, the solemn opening of the Church formed another red-letter day in the annals of the Catholic community. The congregation attended in full force, and a large number of people from Port Elizabeth availed themselves of the opportunity to be present with their fellow-Catholics of the "garden town." The ceremony of blessing the Church and dedicating it to St. Joseph was first

St. Joseph's Church.

gone through by his Lordship Bishop MacSherry. Solemn Pontifical Mass followed, the celebrant being the Right Rev. Bishop MacSherry, assisted by Father Hanton as deacon, and Father Gillet, S.J., as sub-deacon, and Father Schmidt as assistant priest. The sermon was preached by the Right Rev. Bishop Anthony Gaughran, of Kimberley, who took for his text "I have heard thy prayer, and I have chosen this place to myself as a house of sacrifice. My eyes also shall be open and my ear attentive to the prayer of him who prays in this place. For I have chosen this place and have sanctified it that my name may be there for ever, and my eyes and my heart may remain there perpetually." The good Bishop's sermon was delivered in his well-known eloquent and impressive style, and will always be associated with the memory of the opening of the Uitenhage Church.

St. Joseph's Church (Interior).

St. Joseph's is Gothic in style, and is built of red brick with tower and spire. It is 80 feet long (exclusive of chancel, which is 20 feet square) and 40 feet wide. The height to the ceiling is 38 feet. It has a nave and two aisles, nuns' chapel, vestry, and baptistry, and two handsomely carved confessionals of pine. The nave is divided into eight bays, and from the centre of each arch depends a lamp. The altar is a handsome piece of plaster work painted to represent stone, the reredos being in keeping. The canopy surmounting the Tabernacle is an artistic piece of woodwork, the handiwork of Brother Aidan of the Marist Brothers' College. The Sanctuary from the altar rails is laid with encaustic tiles specially imported from Venice. The baptismal font is of similar material to the altar. The pulpit is of imposing appearance, and is of carved pine. Above the altar are three handsome stained glass windows of tasteful design. The centre window represents the Crucifixion; on the right is St. Michael, and the left the Annunciation. In the left aisle there are two stained glass windows representing "Our Lady of Good Counsel" and the "Assumption," and opposite there are two similar windows depicting St. Joseph and Saints Peter and Paul. From the porch a staircase leads to the organ-loft and gallery, which are of ample proportions. The church is enclosed by a handsome railing on brick wall foundations, and on the entrance pillars are two lamps—the entire edifice being most pleasing

and attractive in appearance. The architect was Mr. G. W. Smith, C.E., of Messrs. Smith, Sons, and Dewar, of Port Elizabeth, and the contractor, Mr A. Gillespie, of our town, who deserves great praise for the excellent way he carried out his work. The windows above the altar are the gifts of Mrs. du Prè (Crucifixion), Mrs. Maroney (St. Michael), Mr. J. P. Staunton (The Annunciation), Mrs. Eaton (Our Lady of Good Counsel), Mrs. W. T. Catton (The Assumption), Mrs. van den Heever (St. Joseph), and the memorial window to the late Bishop Strobino, representing Saints Peter and Paul, is the gift of the Rev. Father Rizzonelli. The pulpit was given by Mr. P. Clear, and the Baptismal Font by Mr. du Pré. The benches are in keeping with the Church. It only remains to add that the cost of the building was £5,500, and there is still a heavy debt on the Church, which the Uitenhage Catholics are striving hard to clear off by means of collections, concerts, and similar entertainments for raising money. We feel sure their zeal and earnestness in this respect will soon see the Church free from debt, when they will have the final happiness of seeing it consecrated. Since its opening St. Joseph's Church has been the scene of many impressive Catholic ceremonies, and notable among the memorable devotions must be recorded the mission given in 1899 by Fathers Cullen and Murphy, S.J., which was fruitful of such good results.

The priest in charge at present is the Rev. Father Daniel Flynn, late of East London, who has come amongst us with a high reputation for zeal and earnest work in the cause of his Divine Master.

REV. FATHER FLYNN.

Wesleyan Church

On Sunday, the 28th July, 1839, the Rev. J. Edwards, Wesleyan minister of Port Elizabeth, conducted the first Methodist service in Uitenhage in the Government school lent for the occasion, to a congregation of forty people; and so encouraging were the results that a few weeks afterwards—to be precise, the 31st August, 1839—a house was rented in John Street at 25 rix-dollars a month in which to hold services. About the same time a meeting was held consisting of the Rev. J. Edwards, Mr. Arnott, Mr. T. Colling, sen., and Mr. Hyman, when it was decided to take down the partition walls and order seats to the amount of £8, and inaugurate a weekly service to be held on Tuesday evenings. In the following year, however, the congregation, hearing that Mr. Hitzeroth, the owner of the property, was not unwilling to dispose of it, decided to purchase it outright for the sum of £280. This property comprised a full erf of ground measuring 150 feet by 750 feet, and contained not only the building used as a church but also a house at the other end and facing Cuyler Street, which, for some years, became the residence of the various ministers stationed here. The trustees appointed were the Rev. J. Edwards, Mr. T. Colling, sen., Mr. W. Hyman, Mr. R. A. Stretch, Mr. J. Kennerlet, and Mr. W. Cawood.

From this time services were continued with more or less regularity on a week-night by the minister in Port Elizabeth, assisted by such lay help as could be found.

Interesting items appear in some of the records of those days. The first Missionary meeting was held on the 21st of February, 1842, and under the entry there is a pencil note: "I presided at the Missionary meeting on my arrival in the Colony. R. PANNELL." Lieut. Pannell was a devoted member of the church, and was destined to play a large and important part in the history of its development in Uitenhage for many years.

On the 13th June, 1844, "it was agreed in committee that Mrs. Peterson should lodge and board the Missionary as he came up from Port Elizabeth for the sum of twenty rix-dollars a month." We are not told how long these weekly visits should last, but no doubt the rix-dollars allowed a sufficiently wide margin for the visitor to take an extra day when he felt disposed.

In the year 1848 the church was considerably reinforced by the arrival of one who may be considered as the father of Methodism in Uitenhage. Mr. Matthias Hall was a lay preacher of experience and ability, and having come to South

Africa principally on the grounds of health, he was requested by the chairman of the district to take charge of the infant church in Uitenhage. For four years Mr. Hall laboured arduously and with a considerable amount of success. Circumstances transpired, however, which necessitated his removal to Grahamstown, and during the four years he was absent the little church almost suffered extinction. Mr. Hall fortunately returned in 1857, and, entering into business, he, without financial remuneration, devoted himself to the re-building of the work of the church which had been his care but a few years before. In addition to church work Mr. Hall took a prominent part in matters affecting the town. He occupied a seat in the Divisional Council, and for a long time was a member of the old Board of Commissioners; he also filled the office of chairman of the Municipality with great credit to himself and benefit to the community. Mr. Hall subsequently removed to the residence of his son at "Vernon Hall," near Jansenville, where on November 25, 1887, he peacefully passed away at the age of 78. His devoted and saintly wife only survived him some two months, and both were interred side by side in the Uitenhage Wesleyan burial ground.

One of the first things Mr. Hall did on his return to Uitenhage in 1857 was to make representations to the Missionary Committee in England and request that a minister be sent out to reside in the town. The following year (1858) the Committee was able to accede to this request, and the Rev. W. R. Longden, a probationer, was appointed as assistant to the minister in Port Elizabeth with instructions to reside in Uitenhage. Mr. Longden was an estimable man both as a preacher and as a warm and sympathetic friend, but unfortunately he was delicate in health, and unable to sustain for long the burden imposed upon him. At the close of his second year's ministry he removed to Fauresmith, in the Orange Free State, where he subsequently married the eldest daughter of Mr. Hall. His health not improving he returned to Uitenhage, where after a lingering illness he died on the 2nd of May, 1864, and was buried in the Dutch cemetery.

The failure of Mr. Longden's health necessitated a further minute, which was drawn up by Lieut. Pannell and forwarded to the chairman of the district, in which a plea was made for a man who could not only sustain the English work but also take up work among both Kafir and coloured people. After expressing the sympathy of the church for the illness of Mr. Longden, and shewing full appreciation of his efforts, the minute, which is remarkable for directness of speech, says: "You have the man we want, who can speak Kafir and Dutch fluently—the Rev. W. Sargent—if he be willing to come and you are willing to let him come. He alone is the person we require." It was impossible to resist such an appeal; the following year Mr. Sargent was appointed, and did not belie the hopes of the congregation, for both as a preacher and as an administrator he gained the affection and confidence of the whole community.

Within two years of Mr. Sargent's assumption of office Uitenhage was separated from the Port Elizabeth circuit, and received authority for self-government, Mr. George Uppleby being circuit steward and Mr. Hall chapel steward.

After four years' earnest and faithful service Mr. Sargent, much to the regret of the whole church, was removed to Fort Beaufort, and the Rev. Purdon Smailes was appointed as his successor. During Mr. Smailes' tenure of office the property, including the parsonage and ground on which the present church stands, was acquired. It was purchased in 1866 from a Dr. Meggy (who had but recently secured it from the trustees of the estate of the late Mr. F. Hitzeroth) for the sum of £240. The ground has a frontage to John Street of 150 feet, and runs back 375 feet towards Cuyler Street.

The Rev. Purdon Smailes removed from Uitenhage in 1868, and was succeeded by the Rev. W. Clifford Holden. Mr. Holden was a man of wide and varied experience, having spent more than thirty years in various parts of the Colony. He wrote and published several works on Colonial subjects, his History of the Kafir Races and his general survey of Wesleyan Missions in South Africa being of standing importance.

During the ministry of Mr. Holden two events of historic importance transpired. The first was the commencement of the new church which had been under discussion for years, and which was now actually put into the contractor's hands. The foundation stone was laid on Tuesday, the 15th of February, 1870, "at 10 o'clock," as the record is careful to state; and the church was to be called "The Wesleyan Jubilee Chapel," to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the Settlers, many of whom had spent some time in Uitenhage before proceeding to their destination in the Albany district. The second event was the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Uppleby from Uitenhage to Port Elizabeth. How much the prosperity of

the church was due to the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Uppleby it is impossible to say; they had given of their best, both in time and money, and served the church with a devotion that was an inspiration to all who had the privilege to know them.

The story of the building of the new church would take too long to tell here; it was a period of misunderstanding, and at times even of strife; for architect, builder, and committee seemed to have been possessed alike of a very determined spirit, and the differences that arose did not afford much room for charity. Three times the date of the opening had been fixed before the ceremony came off, and it was not until May, 1871, five months after the time allotted to the contractor, that the key of the church was handed to the officials. The church is a neat substantial structure of the semi-gothic style, splendidly ceiled, and well finished in every respect. The actual cost was £1,400.

Wesleyan Church, John Street

A curious entry occurs about this time which is indicative of the spirit of Uitenhage in those days. The congregation, it appears, were much annoyed by the unseemly conduct of young men who were wont to make the church-yard a favourite resort on Sunday evenings; and it was resolved by the church committee to appoint a man at two shillings a month to clear the premises of this nuisance!

In the year 1871 the Rev. E. D. Hepburn was sent to succeed Mr. Holden. He was a descendant of the once noble house of Hailes, but little is known of his early days. Ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, he offered himself for mission service in South Africa, and subsequently he decided to transfer his allegiance to the Wesleyan Conference. After several years' service he accepted the appointment to Uitenhage. He was a man of high character and singular devotion. His scholarly and varied gifts, sustained by a gracious and devout spirit, enabled him to exercise a successful ministry wherever he went.

On the termination of Mr. Hepburn's ministry in the year 1875, Mr. Sargent was invited a second time, and accepted a call to labour in his old sphere, where he remained until 1879.

On his retirement he was succeeded by the Rev. W. H. Price, who had an exceedingly successful period, and faithfully maintained the traditions of his predecessors. An event of unusual sadness occurred during the ministry of Mr. Price. Lieut. Pannell passed away at the ripe old age of 85 in the full enjoyment of his mental and spiritual vigour. He had identified himself with every phase of the work, and unselfishly sought by great personal effort to further the interests of the church he loved so dearly. A marble tablet in the church bears the following inscription:

Sacred to the Memory of
Lieut. ROBERT PANNELL
(late of the 60th Rifles).
Born Feb. 9th, 1795. Died June 29th, 1879. Æt. 85.

This Tablet is erected as a tribute of affection
by those who knew and loved him, and deeply deplored his loss.
He faithfully filled all the lay offices of the Methodist Church, of
which he was a consistent member for fifty years.

"He being dead yet speaketh."

Space prevents us from dwelling on the labours of those who continued the ministerial succession. We can only mention their names, and say that each added something to the work already done, and contributed towards the consolidation of the work of the church both in town and district.

The Rev. C. Pettman laboured from 1882 to 1885; the Rev. W. S. Caldecott from 1885 to 1887; the Rev. W. B. Rayner from 1887 to 1891; the Rev. S. B. Cawood from 1891 to 1896; and the Rev. T. Roper from 1896 to 1901, when he was succeeded by the Rev. J. W. Househam.

In the year 1889, during the ministry of the Rev. W. B. Rayner, a very handsome and commodious school room and vestries were built to the church, the foundation stone being laid by Mr. A. Fowler, senior (one of the most devoted

and successful school superintendents), in the presence of the whole Methodist Conference, which travelled from Port Elizabeth for the occasion, and a large gathering of friends.

It is a matter for congratulation that the church shews abundant signs of activity. There are some hundred and seventy scholars in the Sunday School, an average attendance of over a hundred at the weekly Band of Hope ; and the congregations, especially in the evening, place a severe tax upon the sitting accommodation of the building. A handsome new parsonage is in course of erection on the site of the old house.

During the existence of the Wesleyan Church in our midst some twenty thousand pounds have been raised for various purposes, and two thousand baptisms have taken place. Churches have been built at Steytlerville, Mount Stewart, and Jansenville, and at this latter place a resident minister has been stationed. In view of an extension of the work of the town to meet the growing population an eligible site well situated on what is known as Poplar Erf, with a frontage to Caledon Street, has been secured, and it is hoped that before long advantage may be taken of this position to erect a school church.

Rev J. W. Househam.

The following are the names of the ministers and officials of the church for the year 1904 :

Rev. J. W. Househam, Superintendent Minister.
Rev. J. Whiteside, Supernumerary.
Hon. J. F. Dolley, Senior Circuit Steward.
Mr. T. W. Mills, M.L.A., Junior Circuit Steward.
Mr. J. Coppin, Secretary to Trust Committee
Mr. A. King, Sunday School Superintendent.
Miss O. Pannell, Organist.
Miss A. K. Househam, Assistant Organist

In addition to the English work, it is interesting to note that a large and flourishing Native Church has grown up and, under the superintendence of the European minister, is rapidly extending its operations throughout the district. There are two Native ministers—the Rev. J. Mkosi in Uitenhage, and the Rev. W. W. Kabane in Jansenville—two evangelists in Sunday's River and Willowmore respectively, thirty lay preachers, with twenty-three outstations, three Sunday Schools, seven Day Schools, and a membership of nine hundred and ninety-eight communicants.

The Moravian Mission in T'Zitzikamma

This Mission was established in 1839. After the third Kafir War, when the Governor, Sir Benjamin D'Urban, marched through Kaffirland, crowds of Fingoes, the enslaved "Fetcani," came to his camp and begged him to set them free. This he gladly did, and after being recalled by the Home Government, his successor, Sir George Napier, who upheld all the treaties of his predecessor, settled those Fingoes in the Colony as they were loyal to the Government. There were others from the north of the Transvaal who had lost their homesteads and cattle by the ravages of Chaka, Moselikatze, and Dingaan, of Trekker fame, and who now also got a glimpse of hope for rest under the British flag and protection. Four different little clans of these received a small "reserve" each in T'Zitzikamma, near the mouth of the river of that name, between the Long Kloof and the sea.

There were also Hottentots, who had been freed from slavery in 1834 and thereafter indentured till 1838, whom Government also wished to provide for. They, too, were advised to go to T'Zitzikamma, where Government granted a piece of land to the Moravian Missionaries for the purpose of their work to be carried on among these natives, and who were expected to keep them in order under their care. The missionaries built a house for themselves, and helped the natives to do the same; then they laid out garden and ploughing ground on the Grant Land, and by the end of 1839 a settlement of 116 souls was already established. The name "Clarkson" was adopted for the place, in honour of Mr. Clarkson, co-worker of Sir William Wilberforce, the great champion of liberty for the slaves. The Fingoes in the neighbouring reserves were also put under the spiritual care of the missionaries, who were at the same time expected to exercise some influence for good even in external affairs.

The missionaries were soon engaged with the natives in building a meeting house for church as well as school, and the dedication took place on the 12th December, 1840.

It soon became evident, however, that the Hottentots were more manageable then the Fingoes in their reserves away from the supervision of the white man. They thought they could now live on the lines of their former lords in Kafirland, whose herds and slaves they had been, and gave themselves to Kafir beer drinking and riotous dancing, the sequel of which were quarrels, which they then expected the missionary to settle if their chiefs could not. Besides, they expected them to provide change of pasture for their cattle, which deteriorated on the sour grass of this tract of land. When Sir George Napier visited the frontier personally in 1840 and '41, to modify some of the conditions of the treaties with the Kafirs, he also came to Essenbosch, near Clarkson, and received the missionaries in audience, very kindly asking them about their work, and heard their complaints about the Fingoes, more especially those of Wittekleibosch, the remotest of the reserves from Clarkson, who would lounge at their kraals and drink Kafir beer, but were too lazy to come to hear God's Word.

There had been great scarcity already in 1840, when a muid of wheat cost £3 7s. 6d., but this had not lasted long. But in 1843 there came a protracted drought, and locusts in destructive clouds, so that the Fingoes of Wittekleibosch found fault with the Rev. A. Kuster, the good missionary, saying that he had driven away rain by lifting the Bible so quickly and so high after preaching to them!

In 1843 the number of school children had so much increased that a teacher, Niklas Oppelt, from the Moravians' Training School at Genadendal, was sent them.* Ever since that time educational work has not been neglected by the missionaries, but formed a very prominent part of their labour of love and self-denial, though some people, who lose sight of the true motive of mission work, still contend that missionaries should only teach the natives to work, instead of preaching to them and schooling their children. There are scabby sheep among the natives as well as among all human society, and failures in mission work as in every other work, but where the seed of the Word of God falls on good ground there is a manifold crop even for "the life that now is," and also "bodily exercise that profiteth little" will not be wanting. So it is everywhere, and so it soon also became manifest at Clarkson and in the Fingo reserves. For even the Fingoes began to till the ground, and made use of the dung from their cattle to fertilize the meagre soil, though there was the deep-rooted superstition that cattle will die if the dung is taken from their kraal. But when they saw that one of their chiefs, Mangoba, filled bag after bag with dung from his kraal, put it on the backs of his oxen to take it to his ploughed field, and got abundant crops, they were astonished and imitated the chief.

When in 1846 Government wanted men for another Kafir war they knew where to go for faithful hands to help them in their transport. So 125 men from Clarkson and its neighbourhood were taken to serve in the "War of the Axe" till 1847, when Captain Symons brought them back and gave them a good testimony. Only one of their number had fallen into the hands of the Kafirs and was lost.

At the commencement of the work the one house for both church and school had been sufficient, but by-and-bye the inhabitants had multiplied and a separate school had to be built. But even so the wants were not fully supplied, and a second large school house was built in 1879, whilst the church was renovated and enlarged for its 50th anniversary in 1890, and dedicated on the day itself, the 12th of December. The last of the former round Kafir huts had already disappeared in the Clarkson settlement as long back as 1871, and decent little houses, though only built of sods, and a few of stone or brick, with thatched roofs, now show the progress of civilization.

In Wittekleibosch a church was built and dedicated in 1866, and in Snyklip, another Fingo reserve, a separate school had been erected, and after having been destroyed by fire in 1869, was renewed of stone. Until but recently the work was carried on by two missionaries, but in 1897 one of them took separate charge of unruly Wittekleibosch and built a house for himself there, to the vexation of many of the Fingoes, who liked rather to be left alone and undisturbed in their heathenish customs.

There are at the present time about 400 inhabitants at Clarkson, while the whole parish counts 700 souls. School children at Clarkson number 100, at Snyklip 45, and at Kafirbosch 20. Besides the out-stations already named, there is one at Woodlands, 11 miles west of Clarkson, with a little church.

*A case of books was sent to the lonely missionaries from Germany, but this did not arrive till 20 years afterwards, when a Port Elizabeth merchant had at last deciphered the address.

The ground is but meagre, and yields scanty crops except it can be well manured. Still, these people work their allotted plots of ground year by year; they have a few head of cattle also, but cannot earn sufficient for their livelihood, so that they are obliged to seek work in the neighbourhood. A number of younger folk have left the place and settled down elsewhere, so that the population in this meagre part of the Humansdorp district is not increasing.

Elliott Memorial Church.

This church is an off-shoot from the Rose Lane Independent Church. It was in 1841, during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Elliott, L.M.S. missionary at Uitenhage, that the plot of ground on which the Elliott Memorial Church stands was secured for the native section of the Rose Lane Church. These natives being chiefly Fingoes, the first place of worship erected for their use was long known as the Fingo Chapel. It served as a school-room as well as a place of worship—the Sunday afternoon services for the natives being regularly conducted there throughout the long pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Paterson and that of his successor, the Rev. James van Rooyen. It was during the ministry of the latter, in the year 1885, that the native section of the Rose Lane Church resolved to form themselves into a separate congregation and church, and called as their first minister Mr. Samuel Sihunu, a Lovedale student who had just completed his theological studies. He was ordained in 1886 as the first minister of the Fingo Church (as it was then named). It was during his ministry of 14 years that the name of the church was changed from Fingo Church to Elliott Memorial Church. During his ministry the church made great progress. He started with a membership of less than a hundred, and when he died there were about 300 communicants. His lamented death took place in November, 1899. A call was then given to the present minister, the Rev. N. Matodlana, who assumed the pastorate in April, 1900. The church was enlarged during the illness of the late pastor to about double its former size. The late Mr. John Mackay supervised this work. It has a sitting accommodation of from 350 to 400. Three Government-aided schools are in connection with it.

There are 10 outstations of this Mission Church —all in the district of Uitenhage. The Rose Lane Church being the oldest coloured and native church in town, not only is the Elliott Memorial its off-shoot, but also either directly or indirectly the Church of England Mission, known as St. Anne's, and the Wesleyan Native Church owe their existence to it.

The Uitenhage Municipality.

There are three bodies, the histories of which when combined constitute the main history of Uitenhage and district, and these taken in order are the Dutch Reformed Church, the Town Council, and the Divisional Council. With the first named we have already dealt at considerable length, and it is to the Municipality that we shall now confine our attention.

On the 15th of August, 1836, an ordinance providing for the erection of Municipal Boards in the towns and villages of the Colony, on which the local regulations of each were to be founded, was signed by Sir George Napier, the then Governor. Five years later, or, to be exact, on the 21st of April, 1841, the inhabitants of Uitenhage decided that the town was then of sufficient size and importance to govern itself, instead of allowing matters to be conducted by the Civil Commissioner, and on this date a public meeting was held for the purpose of formulating and adopting a set of municipal regulations. These were sent to the Governor for his approval, and on the 5th of June he affixed to them his sign manual. They were published in the *Government Gazette* on the 11th of that month.

The Municipality.

The Municipality was virtually created on the 11th of June, 1841, by the publication in the *Government Gazette* of that date of the regulations which we give below.

The First Municipal Regulations.

These are exceedingly interesting, although in many respects they differ from the regulations now in force, some of them being decidedly quaint. But they nevertheless form the original base upon which our present Municipal Act was founded, and as such they deserve a prominent place in this work.

The limits of the Municipality were fixed as follows :

The town lands or commonage, bounded at the different points by the old landmarks, included a certain portion of land reserved by Government from the farm Sandfontein, upon which the main spring supplying the town lay, and also included the farm Ongegund of the late Christian Kok, and the reserved lands of the late Captain Ellert.

The Municipality was divided into five wards, and five Commissioners were to be elected. These in turn would appoint one wardmaster for each ward, a treasurer, a marketmaster, a street officer, a commonage warden, and an overseer of water

courses. This regulation, however, was amended by a proclamation dated the 9th of August, 1842, for it will be noticed that no provision was made for a Town Clerk, and that three officials had been provided when one might have done their work. Accordingly His Excellency's sanction was asked and obtained for the appointment of a Town Clerk and the right to combine two or more offices in one person.

One month after their nomination, and thereafter within six weeks after the end of March in each year, the Commissioners were to cause a valuation list of property to be compiled. All places of public worship, public buildings, and buildings occupied solely for the purposes of charity, however, were exempted from assessment.

The Commissioners were invested with the usual powers to construct bridges, sluices, dams, reservoirs, &c., &c., and to arrange an equitable distribution of the common water for the supply of each erf and house.

The Water Regulations.

These are especially interesting in view of the many complicated questions that have been under discussion for some time past.

In the first place it was provided that the occupier of each whole erf should pay to the Commissioners for the privilege of irrigation the sum of eight shillings per annum, all other parts of an erf, down to one-eighth, to pay in proportion; and smaller lots built upon, whether cultivated or not, to pay as one-eighth of an erf.

Any persons found washing in the water courses or drains, or who permitted their ducks and geese to be therein, or who in any way dirtied the water courses or drains, were liable to pay a fine of five shillings for each offence! The same fine was ordered to be inflicted upon all persons who took or kept water not assigned to them.

Various Regulations.

The further erection of straw and mud huts within the town was strictly prohibited, while those already in existence had to be destroyed.

The proprietors or occupiers of every house whose chimney took fire from want of cleaning were to be subject to a fine of not less than five shillings and not more than £1.

Every proprietor or occupier of land in the Municipality was entitled to keep 24 oxen, cows, or horses, and 50 sheep or goats; but this rate did not apply to butchers or persons visiting the town on business.

It was further enacted that the Commissioners should, during the first week of every year, fix a day for assizing weights and measures, and cause the same to be assized on payment of sixpence for every measure and for every set of weights and measures assized, while any shopkeeper or trader making use of, or having in his possession, any unassized weights or measures, would be subject to a penalty of £1.

Dogs found in the streets without collars were liable to destruction.

The Market.

We have already given the regulations governing the market, but those were formulated several years previously. Under the Proclamation we are now dealing with it was ordered that the market should be held at 7 a.m. on all lawful days, but a subsequent Proclamation limited the hours of sale from 7 to 9 a.m. from the 1st of October to the 31st March, and from 8 to 10 a.m. from 1st April to 30th September. A register fee of 4½d. was to be paid by the proprietor or person in charge of each wagon which entered with produce for sale, while one per cent. on the amount of goods and produce sold was to be charged to the sellers. On no account was the market-master to depart from the rule that all sales were to be for cash payments. No private arrangement made by the parties for any particular mode of payment could be admitted by the market-master, who was compelled to hold himself responsible to the seller for the payment of the money for which the articles had been sold, and all purchases were to be paid for by the buyer to the market-master only, either at the spot or at the market office, within two hours after the delivery of the article. Any person failing to pay within the prescribed time might be required by the market-master, at any further purchase he might be desirous of making, to deposit the money on the spot, and in the event of non-compliance the next highest bidder would be declared the purchaser. The seller had the right of exposing his goods in quantities as he thought proper, but all marketable articles not bought by private sale at the residence of the seller, or beyond twenty miles of the Municipality, must be notified to the market-master on their arrival within the Municipality, and a return made to him thereof, the *buyer* paying the charge of registry. All fees and dues received by the market-master were, without any deduction, to be paid to the Treasurer of the Municipality at the expiration of every week. Provision was made for the delivery of a sale note

containing the usual details. Regulation No. 32 states that "neither the market-master nor any person employed by him shall be permitted to purchase produce in the market for the purpose of trading therewith, on pain of being removed from his situation, but he may purchase articles which are *bona-fide* for his own family consumption." The seller was obliged to deliver the goods at the house or store of the buyer.

The next step to be taken was the election of Commissioners, as they were then called, and this was carried out under the direction of the Magistrate (Mr. J. W. van der Riet) in the old Court Room on the 1st of July, 1841. The rate-payers appeared in force, and returned as their representatives the following gentlemen : Messrs. J. Crowe, Thos. Thompson, R. A. Stretch, G. L. Muller, and O. G. Stockenstroom.

The First Chairman.

The last-named gentleman was made Chairman of the Board, and in communicating the result of the election to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Eastern Province he requested that official to announce it in the *Eastern Government Gazette*. A reply was, however, received to the effect that this journal was about to cease publication, and that the notice must therefore be inserted in a local paper.

The First Meeting.

The first meeting of the Commissioners was held in Mr. Stretch's Baird Street residence on Thursday, the 8th July, 1841, at 10 a.m., and several important resolutions were passed. The first was that "this Board of Commissioners do constitute itself a Board of Secrecy as touching anything done or said by its members or any one of them when in meeting assembled, for the purpose of discussing matters and things or transacting business on account of the Municipality."

The next item on the agenda was the appointment of wardmasters, and the following were requested to act in that capacity : Ward I., Mr. John Luyt ; Ward II., Mr. S. H. Roscher ; Ward III., Mr. Alexander Cunningham ; Ward IV., Mr. H. Potgieter ; and Ward V., Mr. M. Potgieter.

The Town Office.

An application was made to the Civil Commissioner for the use of a room next to the one then occupied by the Market-master, this to serve as the Town Office. The first meeting of the Board adjourned for four days, and resumed its session at the house of Mr. Commissioner Thompson. It was then resolved to notify the public that the Town Office would be in a room forming part of the Government buildings at the corner of Market and Caledon Streets. The main portion of this building had a door opening into Caledon Street and was used as a school for coloured children. The remaining portion, which faced Caledon Street, consisted of two rooms, one or other of which was used as the Town Office and continued to be so used until the present Town Hall was erected in 1882. At the same time it was decided to lay down certain rules for the guidance of the official who would have under his care the superintendence of the streets, commonage, and water furrows.

The matter of advertising this vacancy would look curious in these days, but it was simple enough. Notices were posted up on what were then known as "town knowledge boards," and these were situated at the prison, the Court-house, and at the Dutch Reformed Church.

Municipal Officials.

In the meantime the various wardmasters were instructed to prepare valuation lists of the property in their respective Wards, and everything was done to get the affairs of the town into shape. Mr. Peter A. Rens was appointed Market-master and Clerk to the Commissioners at a salary of £70 per annum, while Mr. M. J. Potgieter was appointed Overseer of the streets, water courses, and commonage at an annual salary of £75. Mr. Rens succeeded Mr. Thos. Colling as Marketmaster, and in addition to his duties as such he was also requested to collect the rates, receiving 5 per cent. for his trouble.

The Wards.

The wards of the town were five in number, and were defined as follows :—

Ward I : Caledon Street, including the church and all erven and houses on that side of the street to the limits of the Municipality.

Ward II : Market Street, including all erven and houses on the right hand going down, extending to Baird Street, and all erven and houses on the left hand of Market Street to the limits of the Municipality.

Ward III : Baird Street to John Street.

Ward IV : John Street to Cuyler Street.

Ward V : Cuyler Street to the limits of the Municipality.

The Treasurer.

Mr. P. Elemans was appointed Town Treasurer, but he declined the position, and he was shortly

afterwards elected as a Commissioner in the place of Mr. Stretch, who resigned his position on the Board to take up the treasurership. He received no regular salary, but was paid $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all moneys received for account of the Municipality, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all moneys paid out.

Mr. William Cadle was appointed Ward-master for Ward No. 4 in place of Mr. Potgieter, who had resigned his situation.

Thatch Cutting.

At that time there were great quantities of thatch growing within the limits of the Municipality, but as it was being cut down in the most indiscriminate fashion, the Commissioners decided that none should be removed by any one who did not possess a licence, and that the charge for the same be 4 9 per wagon load.

The First Town Clerk.

Mr. W. L. Higgenson was appointed Town Clerk towards the end of 1842, and he retained that position for some years.

Street Repairs.

Owing to the limited income of the Board nothing very much could be done in the way of street repairing, but in 1843 Baird and Cuyler Streets were reported to be in so shocking a condition that the Commissioners resolved to do something in the matter. No less than a thousand loads of gravel were put down on each thoroughfare, and this kept them in good order for a few months. In 1845 74 loads of river stone were laid down in Baird Street, and 54 in "St. John Street," at a cost of 2s. $5\frac{3}{4}$d per load.

Uitenhage in 1844

The Fingo Location.

The natives were giving considerable trouble in this year, and the Board very wisely decided to restrict their propensities for erecting huts on the commonage and helping themselves to Municipal water. All Fingoes were therefore ordered to live in the location set apart for them, and this action brought a considerable amount of obloquy upon the heads of the Commissioners. They stuck to their guns, however, and the natives soon found that living in a location under Municipal government was not such a terrible hardship after all, and no doubt they soon became used to it. The location itself was not established until 1844, however.

The War of 1846.

In 1846 war with the Kafirs broke out, and large numbers of men left Uitenhage for the front. Amongst them were the Town Clerk and Mr. Commissioner Pannell, and the former gentleman's position was filled by Mr. E. Dobson, who also acted as market-master, at a salary of £40 per annum.

The Protection of the Town.

The hostile Kafirs began to approach within an uncomfortable distance of Uitenhage, and the Commissioners became alarmed. General Cuyler was the officer to whom they looked for protection, but he did not seem to treat an attack on the town as being very probable. Consequently a meeting was held to consider the subject, and the following letter was addressed to him :

SIR,—We, the undersigned Commissioners of the Municipality of Uitenhage, beg respectfully to suggest to you the impropriety of drawing out for the purpose of escorting wagons the whole or greater portion of the Burgher force of this town, surrounded as it is in all parts by bush, a part of which, according to the reports which have been forwarded as recently as yesterday (the 28th July, 1846), is simply infested with numbers of Kafirs. If they were to make an attack on the town now, particularly by night, there would be much loss, not only of life, but destruction of property to a most alarming extent. Hitherto, we have been in the hope that from the immense force from the Western Districts a sufficient number of men would have been appointed here to protect the town and its district. But now that they have all left, we feel compelled to make this remonstrance. It is needless for us to point out to you the dangerous position of this place, and we trust you will obtain a sufficient force from the neighbouring field-cornetcies for the protection of Uitenhage.

This is a good specimen of the letters written to the various heads of departments at that time. Major-General Cuyler eventually submitted to the alarmed state of the inhabitants, and stationed a small force here.

In the meantime the Commissioners were turned out of their office, which was used as a kind of storeroom, where rations were served out to the wives and children of the coloured men who were fighting against the Kafirs. A room in the library was subsequently granted for the use of the Board, and there they met for a considerable time.

Fines.

In July, 1847, a quaint resolution was passed. It enacted that all Commissioners be fined 3/- for

non-attendance at a meeting, or for not being in time, while in the case of the chairman the fine was to be doubled.

Mr. John G. Woodward was appointed Town Clerk and Marketmaster in 1848, in consequence of Mr. Dobson having resigned. The salary was raised to £80 a year, and two months later he was succeeded by Mr. H. de la Harpe, several of whose sons subsequently owned and occupied farms in this Division, and are well known here.

A Curious Memorandum,

written in faded ink upon blue paper, will be found in the old minutes of the Town Council. It is pasted upon the cover and reads as follows :

> This town of Uitenhage succeeded in being erected into a Municipality on the 5th day of June, 1841, of which I was the humble means of procuring, and was elected the first and senior Commissioner of the said Municipality
>
> J. CROWE
>
> Uitenhage, 22nd July, 1864.

Convicted Felons.

In 1849 an agitation was in progress touching upon the transportation into the Colony of convicted felons, and the various towns subscribed certain sums in order to have the men sent back again. The following appears in the Commissioners' minute book :

> We, the undersigned, hereby guarantee His Excellency the Governor of this Colony to the extent of the sums set opposite to our respective names, in regard to any expense which he may incur by returning the convicted felons whom the Secretary of State has directed to be transported to this Colony, either to the place from whence they embarked, or by sending them to some penal establishment

The sums mentioned range from 5 - to £10, but we cannot ascertain whether they were ever called up.

The Commissioners and the Press.

In these days the Town Council makes it a rule not to take any notice of anonymous correspondence in the newspapers, but in 1849 the Commissioners were so greatly annoyed and irritated by a certain letter appearing in a Port Elizabeth journal, signed "Antagonistus," that they drew up a strong epistle in reply, and not only caused it to be sent to the paper in question, but ordered it to be copied out in full and inserted in the minute book. Its substance is not of much importance now, but it will suffice to say that all the charges brought against the Commissioners by this correspondent are replied to at considerable length, while "Antagonistus" himself comes in for a fair share of vituperation at the hands of those whom he had attacked. For instance, in the Board's reply he is pleasantly referred to as "this fire-eater" "this bombastical hole and corner man," "this obscene and false antagonist," and the editor also receives a scathing rebuke for opening his columns to such matter. There was undoubtedly a considerable amount of feeling rife about that time with regard to the manner in which the affairs of the town were being managed, and several of the Commissioners resigned their seats. But these were promptly filled up again, and so matters proceeded for some time. The water service formed the chief subject of discussion, and endless complaints and verbal disturbances arose out of it.

Bad Streets.

The streets were in a disgraceful condition, and strong remonstrances were addressed to the Commissioners from various sources. One from Mr. John Centlivres Chase (C.C. & R.M) referred in no measured terms to the state of "an avenue running from Baird Street to St. John Street," which was so filled with water and rubbish as to be absolutely dangerous to those who made use of it. The writer reminded the Commissioners that it was in their power to levy a tax upon the inhabitants for the purpose of repairing the thoroughfares, and he concluded by bluntly advising them to resign their seats if they could not do better in future. The Government, he said, would carry out their duties in a more satisfactory manner.

Mr. de la Harpe resigned his position as Town Clerk and proceeded to the front with the burghers in January, 1851, and he was succeeded by Mr. F. le Clus. He in turn was succeeded three years later by Mr. W. W. Alexander.

The Town Guard.

The town at this time was carefully patrolled by volunteers every night, and they used to assemble at the old Court House in order to receive their guns and ammunition. But certain legal points arose which the Commissioners were requested to decide. One of them was whether members of the Town Guard had a right to fire upon any person between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. who did not respond or surrender after being challenged three times. Mr. Centlivres Chase, who was commandant of the town, decided this question in the negative, and said that he would consult higher authorities before giving a ruling on the question of shooting a suspicious person who was escaping. But the war ended without the town being attacked, and the burghers were eventually released from their respective duties without any shooting taking place in the streets.

Some General Items.

In 1857 the Board was greatly in need of money, and at one meeting it was proposed to levy a rate of no less than 6d. in the £ on the rental of all immovable property within the Municipality.

The survey of the town was authorised in 1860. The work was placed in the hands of Mr. Pinchin, and his plan is still to be seen in the Council Chamber.

The boundaries of the streets were defined in July that year, and the beacons fixed. There were only ten thoroughfares in existence then, these being Church Street, Caledon Street, Durban Street, Mitchell Street, Drostdy Street, Market Street, Baird Street, John Street, Cuyler Street, and Van der Riet Street.

Mr. Alexander resigned his position as Town Clerk and Market-master in 1861 after seven years' service, and on his proceeding to Hopetown Mr. F. le Clus was re-appointed at a salary of £100 per annum. He, however, was compelled by ill-health to resign once more in 1864, and his place was taken by Mr. F. C. Fairbank.

In 1864 the Market Square was enclosed by the Horticultural Society, of which Dr. Dyer was Secretary, for the purpose of holding a Horticultural Show.

Church Lane was so named in 1864, and at the same time Lances Lane was re-christened Thompson Street, but this change was never adopted by the general public, and the old name has been retained ever since. What is now Victoria Street was known up to about ten years ago as Willow Lane. There were no houses there when the thoroughfare was made, and at best it was only a path leading from Caledon Street to Cannon Street. It was a picturesque walk, narrow and fringed on either side with beautiful willow trees, from whence it derived its name. The ground was granted by Mrs. Heugh in the middle of 1864, prior to which it had been that lady's private property.

Mulberry Trees.

In 1864 a Mr. Welsford applied for and obtained the sanction of the Commissioners to plant large numbers of mulberry trees from Mr. C. Heugh's tannery along the banks of the Zwartkops River (towards Cuyler Manor) as far as the boundary of the Municipality, and from above Mr. Pannell's mill to near the fountain head of the main water sluit, for the term of ten years, at a progressive rental of from £1 to £10.

Mr. E. J. Thorn, Town Clerk.

On the 4th of January, 1865, Mr. Edwin John Thorn took office for the first time as Town Clerk, and this position he continued to occupy for more than fourteen years.

Rules of Order.

A new set of rules of order was drawn up by a Committee appointed for that purpose in June, 1865, and they are substantially those under which the working of the Council is carried on to-day. It was decided to hold the meetings fortnightly, at 3.30 p.m., on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. The Commissioners present at this meeting were Messrs. Tennant (chairman), Liesching, Luyt, and Noyce.

Penny Postage to and from Port Elizabeth.

The matter of a penny post between Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth occupied the attention of the Commissioners in 1865, for at that time the postage on a letter under half-an-ounce was 2d. Mr. E. Dobson, who was undoubtedly one of the most usetul Commissioners this town ever had, interviewed the Colonial Secretary on the subject, and reported that this official had every disposition to grant a penny post between the two towns twice a day, provided that it could be made to pay. He suggested, however, that some other post might be dispensed with in order that the funds might be applied to the one under consideration. It was eventually decided to sacrifice the Zwartkoppen post, and the matter was eventually concluded in the most satistactory manner to all concerned.

Squatting and Locations.

For a great number of years—ever since the founding of the town, in fact—the inhabitants had suffered constant annoyance from the fact that natives were permitted to squat on the commonage. Thefts became more and more frequent, and it at length became obvious that some remedy must be obtained, for the nuisance was becoming unbearable. Some locations had already been established, but these only partially did away with the main evil, for the Kafirs could not be compelled to live in them, and it would have been too expensive to have the commonage continuously patrolled.

Accordingly, in 1865 the Commissioners took the matter in hand with considerable vigour and determination. It was decided to extend these locations and to add to their number. A set of bye-laws was drawn up, and the conditions upon which each Kafir or other person could hold

ground in the locations were defined. These were that the natives should elect a headman for each location, and that the headman so appointed should be answerable for the good behaviour of all persons in that location. He in turn was to be allowed to live rent and taxes free in consideration of his collecting every month the fee of one shilling per hut, while in addition to this he would also receive 1d. per month on each hut on the sums collected. No Kafirs without passes, nor any persons of doubtful character, were to be allowed to live on the location.

Mr. Robert W. Smith was appointed Superintendent of the locations and town lands at a salary of £75 per annum, and the following report or census was drawn up, showing the number of huts and their inhabitants then in existence :—

	Huts.	Inhabitants.	Annual Revenue
(1) Lower Kabah	54	335	£32 8 0
(2) Upper Kabah	85	408	51 0 0
(3) Magatees	13	70	7 16 0
(4) Kafirs and Fingoes (over the river) ..	40	472	24 0 0
(5) Fingo Location	37	173	22 4 0
(6) Market Street Location ..	14	80	8 8 0
Totals	243	1,628	£145 16 0

It was considered that under judicious management the existing revenue of £145 might be trebled. Surveying work was now proceeded with, and plots were marked out. The next step was to place the natives in possession. Several applications for ground were received, and, as a whole, the coloured people appeared to be glad of the opportunities afforded them. The Commissioners, however, had considerable difficulty in deciding upon the duration of the leases. The Government wished them to be perpetual, but this suggestion found no favour in the eyes of the Board, for it was pointed out that at some future date the Corporation might desire to remove the locations altogether, or, at all events, to some spot much further away, in order to allow for the extension of the town. Various periods were discussed, and these ranged from twelve months to twenty years. It was eventually decided by one vote, however, that the leases should be for a term of ten years, and this having been settled, all squatters were given notice that they must take up their abode within the location by a certain date. The rent of the Kabah lots was suggested at £1 per annum, and the rent of lots in the other locations from 12 - to 40 - per annum. Mr. Smith was eventually instructed to report on the value of the ground, but he failed to do so, and at the next meeting of Commissioners there was a violent scene which ended in Mr. Smith's tendering his resignation on the spot and in the gathering abruptly terminating. Subsequently Mr. Smith vouchsafed the information that he had burned a hundred huts belonging to squatters on the commonage, and had erected an equal number in the locations.

Mr. James McMaster was then appointed Inspector in Mr. Smith's stead, a standing Location Committee, consisting of Messrs. Tennant and Leisching, was formed, and from that time squatting decreased, and the locations have ever since been worked in the most satisfactory matter.

The Town Hall.

For some years considerable inconvenience had been caused both to the public and to the Commissioners by the need of a Town Hall, where meetings and gatherings could be held as occasion required. The Market Square originally extended from the river to Caledon Street. The lower part was occupied by the pound. Above that was the spot where the morning market was held, but in 1870 it was occupied by St. Katherine's Church and the Railway Station. The upper part of the square at this time was a public park, which extended from Constitution Road to Caledon Street. In the meantime, as we have already stated, the business of the Municipality was carried on in a couple of small rooms which were situated in what is now Messrs. Heeley & Co.'s store, at the corner of Caledon and Market Streets.

An agitation for a proper Town Hall commenced in the sixties, but nothing was done in the matter until 1875, when a resolution was passed favouring the construction of a building where the Municipal officers could transact public business with less inconvenience than they were then subjected to, and where public meetings could be held without utilising the Court House for that purpose. The requisite permission to sell the upper part of the old square was obtained from the Government at the end of December, 1876, but a sufficient portion of it was to be reserved for building thereon a Town Hall, Public Library, and Market Office. The condition in the original grant requiring the land to be used only as a market place was annulled. Permission was also given to sell the small library building and the piece of land in Caledon Street vested in the Committee of that institution, but these arrangements were subject to the Municipality obtaining an Act of Parliament to legalise them. Mr. Fairbridge was appointed Parliamentary Agent, and on the 11th of July, 1876, the Chairman (Mr. J. Gibson, M.L.A.) reported that the "Uitenhage Municipal Buildings Act" had been

passed at a cost to the ratepayers of something like £200.

Nothing more was done until the Town Council took office in 1877, when the General Purposes Committee was instructed to proceed with all expedition in the matter of subdividing the ground into suitable building plots. Mr. Surveyor Roselt was commissioned to make the necessary survey.

Opposition to the Site.

But the Town divided over this question, as it seemed to do over nearly everything that was mooted for the public good. A Park Defence Society was formed, and this naturally caused a Park Abolishment Committee to come into existence. The tactics employed by the former consisted mainly of urging the inhabitants to petition Parliament praying that the Uitenhage Municipal Buildings Act might be cancelled, as the town had grown since the passing of that measure, and the public were now unwilling to lose the beautiful park which formed the only spot where they could enjoy innocent recreation during the hot weather. The petition dilated upon the cool, picturesque glades and the shady walks, upon the dearth of trees in other parts of Uitenhage, protested strongly against this "pretty little enclosure" being cut up into building plots and sold for a sum which would inevitably be so small as to render the erection of a Town Hall as far off as ever. The petitioners therefore besought Parliament to annul the Act altogether. To this document were appended some fifty-five signatures, but it was received with laughter and derision. The chief source of merriment seemed to be that the Park was little else than an unkempt wilderness of weeds with trees scattered about it here and there; the paths were overgrown, the decaying fences were falling to pieces in some places and had already disappeared in others, snakes abounded in the long frowsy grass, horses and cattle strayed there at night, and the place bore such a reputation that no respectable person would walk on that side of the street after darkness had fallen. And yet the agitation proceeded, for the "Defence Society" reckoned more upon what might be done with the Park in the future than upon what it was then. Still, there was no justification for the exaggerated descriptions of its beauty.

It must be remembered that the Magennis Park, as we know it, was not then in existence. Part of the bush had been roughly cleared off the ground there in 1879, and a plantation started. But the trees were mere saplings, the grass was long and rank, walks there were none—unless a few irregular sheep tracks can be described as paths—and this embryo park was bisected by a deep water furrow.

However, despite the furious protests of the Park Defence Committee, the petition was laughed out of existence and it eventually died a natural death. The people of Uitenhage preferred a Town Hall to a snake-infested jungle. The sale of the land was nevertheless deferred for some considerable time, as the Colony was then passing through a period of severe depression, and the prices realised would have been too low to have furthered the object for which they were raised.

The Site Selected.

At the Town Council meeting held on the 12th of November, 1879, the site of the new hall was settled, but not until three different ones had been proposed. Mr. Mayor Dobson moved, Mr. Magennis seconding, that the hall be erected at the lower end of the Park Lands, and that it face the Market Square instead of Caledon Street, as had originally been recommended by the Committee. Mr. Dolley, senior, however, was in favour of placing it at the top end of the ground—where Mr. P. Thomson's house now stands—and moved that it face Caledon Street. Mr. Joseph Young seconded this. Dr. Lamb held, on the other hand, that the hall should be built at the upper end of the ground, but that it should face Market Street. Mr. T. W. Gubb seconded the doctor's amendment to this effect. Six votes were recorded for the Mayor's motion, two for Mr. Dolley's, and six for Dr. Lamb's. The question the Mayor had therefore to decide with his casting vote was whether the hall should be built at the lower end of the Park Lands and face Market Square, or whether it should be erected at the corner of Caledon Street and Market Street, facing the latter thoroughfare. The Mayor gave his casting vote in favour of his own motion, and thus it was resolved that the building should stand where it now does.

Plans and Designs.

The next step was to call for designs, and it was decided by the Building Committee, which consisted of Messrs. Inggs (chairman), Gubb and Dr. Lamb, to advertise for designs of a suitable building, facing the Market Square, and containing accommodation for a Library and a Reading Room. A prize of £20 was to be given for the best design and £10 for the second best.

The Preliminaries Settled.

Three plans were considered on the 5th of July, 1880, and these were submitted by Messrs. H. C.

Hurry, Richard E. Wright, and J. Thornhill Cook. Mr. Wright's design received three votes, Mr. Cook's received two votes, and Mr. Hurry's one. Mr. Borrill was then appointed contractor, and Messrs. Grant & Downie the builders. Mr. Borrill subsequently left the town, and Messrs. Grant & Downie became the contractors in his stead.

The Foundation Stone.

On the 13th of April, 1881, the foundation stone was laid by the Mayor, Mr. Edward Dobson, and it will be found at the left side of the steps leading from the Market Square to the building. It is interesting to note that on this historic occasion the Mayor formed the only living link between the Board of Commissioners and the Town Council. In 1843 he had acted as Secretary to the former body, all the members of which had since passed away, while nearly forty years afterwards he, as Mayor of the town, was laying the foundation of this splendid pile of municipal buildings.

The Opening Ceremony.

The work proceeded rapidly, and within sixteen months of the laying of the foundation stone the building was formally opened. The function was one the like of which had never been seen in Uitenhage, and the festivities lasted for three days.

At noon on Monday, the 7th of August, 1882, Mr Mayor Dobson led the way down Market Street from the old Town Office at Heeley's corner to the new building, and he was followed by a procession of Councillors and guests. The hall having been officially declared open, and dedicated to the use of the public of Uitenhage both for Municipal and Library purposes, a great banquet was held in the Assembly Room.

The speeches delivered have lost their main interest through effluxion of time, but we give extracts from two of them as showing that Uitenhage had not even then lost hope of becoming the seat of Government. Replying to the toast of the Ministry and Parliament, Mr. Joseph Reid, M.L.A., said they all knew that Nature intended Uitenhage to be not only the seat of Government but the seat of the Legislature. This would come sooner or later, when they got either removal or separation. The hall they had opened that day would be well adapted for the House of Assembly, and the large room upstairs would do admirably for the Legislative Council, which would then be literally the "Upper House." The comfortable room set apart for the Mayor would be excellently adapted for Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. W. H. Pearson, M.L.A. (Mayor of Port Elizabeth), disagreed with his colleague, however, and said he would never advise the people of Uitenhage to give up the new building to Parliament, as they would make a great mistake if they handed over their Municipal Hall to the House of Assembly. If Parliament came to Uitenhage let another place be built for it, but let them never part with their Municipal rights. Whenever the seat of Government was transferred to Uitenhage it would be necessary to put up a better building than even that which had just been opened.

Uitenhage Town Hall

On the evening after the opening ceremony a great ball was held in the Assembly Room, when some 300 people were present, while supper was served in the Library. The festivities lasted for three days, and at the expiration of that time the people of Uitenhage resumed the even tenor of their way. The total cost of the buildings was £7,171 17s. 1d., and the sales of land on College Hill, Graaff-Reinet Road, and of the Park Lands amounted to £7,062, leaving a deficiency of £109 0.1.

The Uitenhage Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

The Agricultural and Horticultural Society was one corporate body in 1869, and in that year the annual show was held in the enclosure bounded by Chase Street, Caledon Street, and the north part of the Market Square.

The Circuit Court.

The Circuit Court was an event which twice every year roused Uitenhage from its lethargy, and the arrival of the Judge and his suite was attended by much greater pomp and ceremony than is now the case. At the present time his lordship is met at the station by the Deputy-Sheriff, the Magistrate, and the Mayor, and drives quietly to his temporary residence. But in the sixties he was met by the Board of Commissioners, by the Magistrate and his staff, a guard of honour was drawn up to receive him, and a public address engrossed upon parchment and signed by the Councillors was read by the Town Clerk. This custom was retained for a great number of years; in fact it was observed from the time that the first Circuit was held in Uitenhage. It has since fallen into disuse, however, and the Circuit as a general rule creates but little interest among the townspeople.

Bathing.

The Zwartkops River has always been a favourite bathing place, at least in some spots, and in 1869 the Board of Commissioners found it necessary to regulate the time when bathers might be allowed to disport themselves in the water. Accordingly it was decreed that no bathing would be allowed "in or near the Zwartkops River between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. from the 1st April to the 30th September, and between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. from the 1st of October to the 31st of March. A constable was engaged at 2- per diem and stationed on the banks of the stream in order to enforce this rule. But it apparently did not give complete satisfaction, for a good deal of surreptitious bathing went on. Mr. C. Heugh, sen., bitterly complained to the Council that his water was fouled for washing wool in consequence of parties bathing in the river. For a whole day he had been compelled to suspend washing on this account alone. Doubtless the reason for his complaint lay in the fact that the sediment was disturbed and rendered the water muddy. The Commissioners then selected two bathing places, and withdrew the regulation concerning the hours when they could be used.

The Chairman

Up to this time there appears to have been no definite rule regarding the election of a chairman. Sometimes one of the Commissioners would preside over the meetings for a month or two, and his place would then be taken by the others in rotation. In 1869, however, there was apparently a feeling that a permanent chairman should be appointed, and at the meeting held on the 3rd of February several proposals were made with regard to this matter. One was that the Commissioners should elect a chairman as he was wanted. Another was that one should be elected for three months, and another member suggested a time limit of six months. Eventually, however, on the motion of Mr. Thomas Daly, Captain Caithness seconding, Mr. John Gibson was elected chairman for one year. His appointment to the chair, by the way, was only carried by one vote. The Commissioners then in office were Messrs. John Gibson, Leisching, George Caithness, C. A. Cawood, Thomas J. Daly, Matthias Hall, and F. J. Noyce. Mr. Gibson, who was at one time headmaster of the Government school here, having retired from that position, threw himself heart and soul into municipal work, and rendered yeoman service to the town. He was chairman of the Board of Commissioners for many years, and was afterwards returned to Parliament as member for Uitenhage. While there he successfully piloted the Act of Incorporation through the Legislature, and as a reward for his services in thus getting Uitenhage raised to the dignity of a Municipality he was unanimously elected the first Mayor in 1877.

A Cotton and Linseed Company.

Many experiments have been tried for the purpose of ascertaining whether various commodities of more or less value could be produced in Uitenhage, but none of these appear to have been successful. At one time part of the town com-

monage was leased to certain parties who were convinced that they could make a fortune by growing silk. Mulberry trees were plentiful, and the silk worms thrived, but through lack of patience or, what is more likely, through lack of funds, the venture came to nothing. Then in 1869 Messrs. George Uppleby, B. Harvey, Fred. Lange, and Henry W. Bidwell formed a company for the purpose of cultivating cotton, flax, hemp, and linseed, and they applied for the land formerly occupied by the Silk Growing Company. This was ten morgen in extent, and was situated behind Cannon Hill. It was granted to them rent free for three years, but, alas! the experiment failed and the company was dissolved.

Uitenhage's Claim to be the Metropolis.

For some time prior to this period the people of Uitenhage had shown themselves particularly anxious to see the Garden Town made the capital of South Africa, and in this ambition they were encouraged by the persistence with which their representatives in the Town and Divisional Councils urged these claims upon the authorities. And so far as the various Governors of the Colony were concerned they certainly looked upon the idea with favour. When Sir Henry Barkly visited Uitenhage in January, 1872, he was presented by the Board of Commissioners with an address in which the various advantages enjoyed by the town were pointed out at considerable length, and the address then continued as follows: "From the time of Governor Janssens in 1804 to the present, no Governor engaged in a Frontier war has omitted to recommend the removal of the seat of Government to Uitenhage. Governor Janssens' correspondence of 1804, the report of the Commissioners of Enquiry of 1821, Sir Benjamin D'Urban's dispatch of 1836, the opinions of Sir Henry Pottinger, Sir Andries Stockenstroom, and Sir H. Young (in Sir H. Young's Blue Book of 1864) will bear out this assertion. Most of the administrative labours of the country have, for many years past, been connected with this Province. Population, capital, and enterprise are certainly and rapidly tending to the eastward and northward, and we are firmly persuaded that a time must come when Uitenhage will be the centre from which the future destinies of British South Africa will be governed." To this flow of language, however, Sir Henry Barkly gave a guarded reply, for he obviously did not wish his name to be added to the list of his predecessors who committed themselves to so favourable an opinion of Uitenhage's claims to be the metropolis of the country. He said that the great importance of Uitenhage as a frontier town in the earlier history of the Colony was not unknown to him. Whether it was destined in the contemplated union of South African States and Provinces to attain, as they with fond partiality hoped, the pre-eminence of being selected as the political capital of the Confederation, was a question to be decided afterwards by the voice of the united representatives of the South African people.

The occasion of Sir Henry's visit at this time, by the way, was the turning of the first sod of the railway between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, which ceremony took place on the 6th of January, 1872.

Revenue.

As showing the difference between the Uitenhage of the seventies and Uitenhage to-day, it is interesting to compare the revenue then and now. In 1872 the increment amounted only to £1,113 18s. 10d. (which included the sum of £473 derived from the penny rate) and the expenditure amounted to £663 10s., leaving a balance of £450 8s. 10d. for new works.

Bishop Street.

The need of another thoroughfare to connect Caledon and Cannon Streets had long been felt, and after a long series of discussions it was decided that the St. John Street, as it was then named, would be the most convenient solution of the difficulty. This ground, however, was the property of the English Church, and it extended to the Crown Hotel. Negotiations with the church authorities were opened, and they agreed to give the requisite ground for the street in consideration of their receiving as a *quid pro quo* the strip of land extending from the corner of Barkly Street to the corner of Dale Street (adjoining the Muir High School playground). This was done, and the ground at the corner of Barkly Street to the corner of Dale Street has since remained in possession of the English Church. The new thoroughfare was happily named Bishop Street, after the then Bishop of Grahamstown, whose consent to the exchange had been given so readily. This was in 1872.

A Distillery in Church Street.

In 1871 Mr. F. Gerds erected a distillery in Church Street, and the business was conducted there for some time. The business, however, was eventually given up, and the premises remained in ruins for a considerable period.

The Town Engineer.

The first mention of a Town Engineer occurs in the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th of November, 1874, when it was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Leisching that a civil engineer be appointed for the purpose of carrying out the domestic water service in town. The motion, however, was withdrawn.

Fires.

The Commissioners seem to have taken matters very easily so far as fires were concerned. In January, 1874, the house in Cuyler Street occupied by Mrs. Basson was burned down, and Messrs. M. C. Luyt and H. L. Hitzeroth wrote the Town Clerk the same day stating that though efforts had been made to extinguish the embers, the building was still burning, thereby putting the houses belonging to the writers (situate on the other side of the street) in great danger. If the fire extended to their premises the writers of the letter solemnly avowed that they would hold the Council liable for damages. This communication was ordered to be recorded, and the next item on the minutes reads quaintly. It is the copy of a letter from the Town Clerk of Port Elizabeth offering to sell the Commissioners a fire engine, nearly new and in perfect working order, for the sum of £60. Mr. Mosel moved, Mr. Lane seconded, and it was carried *nem. con.*, that the offer be declined as the Commissioners *had no use for a fire engine!* And the next item states that the proposition to apply to the various Fire Assurance Companies for subscriptions toward the purchase of a new fire engine was negatived and fell to the ground accordingly.

Street Nomenclature.

As a general rule the streets of Uitenhage have been named after prominent townspeople, and most of those who have taken part in the government of the town have given their names to a thoroughfare. Statesmen also figure in our street nomenclature, as witness Caledon Street (which was one of the first to be constructed, and which was called after Earl Caledon, Governor of the Colony from 1807 to 1811), Baird Street after Sir David Baird, Durban Street after Sir Benjamin D'Urban (Governor from 1834 to 1838), Barkly Street, Molteno Street, Frere Street, Milner Street, Sprigg Street, Rhodes Street, Scanlen Street, Dale Street, etc., etc. Cannon Street and Cannon Hill were so named because a piece of ancient ordnance used to stand on the latter eminence and was used for the firing of salutes on fête days. College Hill takes its name from the educational establishments erected there, while the rest of the thoroughfares are named after local men of eminence.

Nothing, however, is more confusing to the writer of a history of Uitenhage than the way in which streets have been re-named from time to time. A committee was formed for this purpose in the early seventies, and while the results of their labours were confirmed by the Board of Commissioners the new names do not appear in the minutes. Hence great confusion is only too apt to arise. Bishop Street, for instance, used to be known as Upper John Street, Lance's Lane was Thompson Street, Constitution Road was originally Constitution Street, Henrietta Lane was first known as St. Mary's Lane, and later as Chase's Lane; Gibbon Street was Lower Kabah Street, Rose Lane was first called Chapel Lane, Park Avenue was College Street, Willow Lane is now Victoria Street, and so forth.

The Rifle Association.

In April, 1875, Mr. H. O. Edwards, hon. sec. and treasurer of the Uitenhage Rifle Association, applied for permission to erect targets at the "old butts" near the Union Woolwashing Works, and the sanction of the Commissioners was readily granted.

Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage Water Supply.

Port Elizabeth had been growing steadily, and had made even more rapid strides since the discovery of diamonds at Kimberley in 1867. Her population and trade had increased by leaps and bounds, but there was one great difficulty which had to be faced. The water supply was annually becoming more and more inadequate for the requirements of the town, and the position was becoming serious. In her distress, Port Elizabeth applied to Uitenhage for assistance. The magnificent Springs here had long been the envy of the neighbouring town, and to the residents there it appeared both unjust and ungenerous that a sleepy little village should hold so firmly to its daily supply of 1,700,000 gallons—most of which ran to waste—while the "Liverpool of South Africa" was in such dire straits. But a feeling of jealousy had long existed between the two towns, and there was a feeling among many of the inhabitants here that as Port Elizabeth's prosperity increased that of Uitenhage would decrease proportionately. It was not recognised then as it is now that the interests of both are interwoven and that prosperity to the one meant prosperity to the other. Besides, Uitenhage

had her own "water question," and the squabbles that arose over this were so bitter and so prolonged and so complicated that the town was divided against itself in half a dozen different directions. Consequently an application to provide a rival town with a daily supply was not received with any degree of enthusiasm. Then, again, the inhabitants were haunted with the idea that Uitenhage would some day be the capital of United South Africa, and that as such it would grow to a great size. "Would it not therefore be folly," the people reasoned among themselves, "to part with even a part of an asset which forms one of our main claims to future metropolitan dignity?" That was the case Uitenhage made out in justification of her unwillingness even to consider the proposition of assisting her neighbours.

Port Elizabeth's Position.

The case for Port Elizabeth, however, was not an unreasonable one, and the arguments adduced there by the Town Council were fair enough. Writing on the 27th October, 1873, a sub-committee of that body, consisting of Messrs. H. W. Pearson, Chas. T. Jones, and H. B. Deare, informed the local Commissioners that they had been deputed to investigate the sources of water supply with a view to providing water for Port Elizabeth. They had accordingly deputed Mr. Hurry, a civil engineer, to examine and report on all the springs in the neighbourhood, and having received his report they were of opinion that the best source, considering the interests of both Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth, was that furnished by the Springs from which the former derived its supply. From the data provided it was evident that these springs, properly utilised, would furnish more water than was likely to be required for the two towns, after making full allowance for all probable increase of population. They neither proposed nor desired that Uitenhage should receive any less water then it did then, but it was their wish, on the contrary, to render a very much larger quantity available for its use. The gain from clearing the sources, preventing waste in transit to the village, and using the great quantity then running to waste, would be something enormous. In fact, it appeared that any one of these measures taken by itself would render more water available, in addition to that then used, than both places could consume. Under these circumstances the writers hoped that the Commissioners would take the matter into consideration and endeavour to promote an object so greatly desirable.

The Port Elizabeth Town Council at the same time issued a notice to contractors stating that they were prepared to enter into a contract for the supply of water to the town, and that the probable amount that they could disburse for this supply would be about £3,000 per annum. There can be no doubt that such a sum would have been more than acceptable to Uitenhage, as it would have trebled the yearly income. The Commissioners replied to the foregoing communication and said that they could enter into no agreement with any party for a supply of water, but that the letter in question would be laid before a public meeting of the inhabitants on the 25th of November, 1873.

The Request Refused.

The meeting was duly held in the old Court House, and the building was filled to overflowing. The Rev. Father O'Brien was voted to the chair, and a memorial signed by a large number of natives was read. This set forth a grievance keenly felt by them. They stated that they did not receive sufficient water for irrigating their plots, although they were entitled to it and were willing to pay for it as other people did. Mr. Dobson then attacked the *Eastern Province Herald* for the statements it had made concerning the selfish attitude adopted by Uitenhage, and this had the effect of making the meeting uproariously hostile towards the neighbouring town. The following motion, proposed by Mr. Dobson and seconded by Mr. Mosel, was carried unanimously: "This meeting is of opinion that it is not advisable to entertain any proposal from Port Elizabeth regarding the sale of part of the Uitenhage water."

The next resolution was one which created the fiercest dissension. It embodied a vote of censure on the Commissioners for their recent action regarding the local water question, and also recommended that His Excellency the Governor and both Houses of Parliament should be asked to protect the commonage rights of Uitenhage against all-comers. The needs of the inhabitants had increased since the passing of the Special Water Act (No. 3 of 1867), and this was evidenced by the letter from the coloured portion of the inhabitants of the Kabah and Naabosch Locations read that night.

A scene beggaring description ensued when this resolution had been read to the meeting. The ratepayers appear to have lost their tempers completely, for a perfect Babel of execration arose. One of the Commissioners attacked the Town Clerk in the roundest of terms and threatened him with personal violence. The Town Clerk warmly retorted, and the quick Irish temper of the chair-

man must have been sorely tried. However, the resolution was eventually toned down somewhat, and it was at last decided to recommend the Commissioners to proceed with the Water Bill of 1867. The main reasons advanced by the leaders of the party antagonistic to the sale of water to Port Elizabeth were that the amount at the disposal of the town was diminishing, and that although it was contended by the Bay press that the Uitenhage springs yielded a quantity sufficient for a town of 300,000 inhabitants in England, the agriculturists had to use more water for irrigation purposes here than at Home. There were 13,000 acres of land to be cultivated, the Railway Company had obtained 4,000 acres, and, so far as waste water was concerned, what escaped from the erven on the eastern side of Cannon and College Hills ran into a large lake on the Graaff-Reinet Road—and this was one of the greatest blessings enjoyed by travellers on the whole line of that thoroughfare.

To this phase in the history of Uitenhage we have briefly referred on page 53, but have deemed it advisable to supplement the general information given there by a few of the more interesting details contained in the minutes of the Town Council, for the purpose of showing more graphically the real state of public opinion as it existed in the early seventies.

Strike of Workmen.

In August, 1874, the workmen in the employ of the Board of Commissioners grew dissatisfied with the meagre wages paid them, and as their representations to this effect had not had the desired result, they took the bull by the horns and struck work. They consented, however, to continue for a week in order that the decision of the Board might be arrived at. The position was carefully considered, and it was at length resolved that the rate of pay should not be increased, and that the workmen be so informed.

Henrietta Street Opened.

In 1875 Mr. H. N. Chase informed the Commissioners that he had now opened the St. Mary's Lane (running from Baird Street to John Street), but that he had re-named it Henrietta Street. He asked the Board to take some measures to have it cleaned up by the convicts, but this request was refused for the time being.

A Proposed Tramway.

In 1874 Mr. D. Macdonald, of Port Elizabeth, conceived the idea of constructing a tramway here, and he formed a syndicate for the purpose of carrying out the work. But the Commissioners did not manifest much enthusiasm in the proposal, and viewed it with a certain amount of coldness and suspicion which must have proved distinctly discouraging to the promoters. Describing the scheme, Mr. Macdonald pointed out that the undertaking was in no way connected with any of the woolwashing works. The object of the promoters was to construct a road, the traffic on which would be expected to yield a return on the capital invested, and at the same time to facilitate the transport of wool. It would manifestly be to the interest of the promoters to secure as much of that traffic as possible, and consequently the road would be laid out so as to afford the greatest possible convenience to each of the establishments. It was not within the scope of the undertaking to bridge the river so as to connect the works on the right bank with the tramway, but, short of this, every endeavour would be made to secure traffic, and the receiving and delivering of wool would become a matter of arrangement with the several washers. The terminus would be at Uppleby's old woolwash.

This letter having been considered by the Commissioners, it was at length resolved to inform Mr. Macdonald that the Board was not disposed to treat with any private party or parties for a tramway through the commonage lands of the Municipality. The scheme was therefore nipped in the bud, and thus another enterprise was perforce abandoned.

The Commissioners and the Midland Railway.

But if the Commissioners were not in favour of facilitating internal traffic they were certainly keenly interested in seeing the Midland Railway pushed forward. Their first step was to memorialise the Government on the subject, and to point out the great necessity of hastening the construction of a line from Uitenhage to Graaff-Reinet. The reply to this communication was to the effect that a survey of the route would be commenced shortly. Not content with this, a public meeting was called on the 17th of October, 1873, and various resolutions were passed. We should state that Graaff-Reinet was mainly responsible for this endeavour to bring matters to a head, for a Political Association had been formed there, and one of its main objects was to urge upon the Government the need of expedition where this railway was concerned. The Uitenhage public took up the position that not only should the railway be constructed between the

two towns as soon as possible, but they strongly emphasised the point that a direct line should be taken between the two towns, with as few deviations as possible. In order to secure this object they decided to join forces with other interested centres in the Eastern Province, and to press their demands upon the Government with unwavering persistence. Messrs. John Gibson and Julius Mosel were appointed delegates to attend the conference at Graaff-Reinet, and, in short, Uitenhage did her utmost to hasten the railway forward, and these efforts were eventually crowned with success.

The State of the Town.

From time to time the Commissioners seem to have awakened to the fact that many things were not as they should be, and that if Municipal dignity was to be upheld the Board must exercise its authority now and then. These matters were sometimes rectified with almost startling suddenness. For instance, it is gravely reported in the minutes that the streetkeeper was ordered to "keep vehicles, oxen, and other animals off the footpaths, as they constituted an annoyance to pedestrians." No vehicle was in future to be "allowed to be driven on the footpaths, as such a practice was dangerous to the public." Uitenhage must have been a charming place in the early seventies if the inhabitants could not walk along the pavements without the risk of being jostled into the road by an ox or run over by a cart.

Again, the Commissioners became so irritated by the constant stream of complaints that poured into the Town Clerk's office anent the sluits being polluted by ducks and geese swimming in them that the streetkeeper, whose duties were of the most varied description, was ordered to kill every bird that he found disporting itself in the furrows. He did so, and there appears to have been quite a massacre. He faithfully tabulated each day's executions, and presented the list to the Board. He was then indemnified by the usual formula: "The streetkeeper's report was considered satisfactory and adopted." It may have been satisfactory to the Commissioners, but it certainly would not be equally so to the owners of the ducks and geese whose untimely deaths were thus approved.

The Ballast Hole Line.

Considerable quantities of gravel were required for the ballasting of the railway, and as an excellent supply was obtainable in the river bed Mr. Watson, Chief Resident Engineer, Port Elizabeth, wrote to the Board in May, 1876, requesting permission to lay down a tramway from the railway through Magennis Street to a place opposite the Red Krantz, for the purpose of obtaining the requisite material.

This was acceded to by the Board, and the work commenced shortly afterwards.

A Powder Magazine.

There are several references in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners to the proposed erection of a powder magazine on the outskirts of the town, and, indeed, a committee was appointed to enquire into the matter. The only result of their labours, however, was a verbal notification to the effect that there was a suitable site at the back of Cannon Street, but no report was drawn out. The matter then appears to have died a natural death, notwithstanding the somewhat alarming representations that had been made with regard to the extreme danger of allowing such large quantities of explosives to be stored within the populous centres of the town.

Uitenhage in 1876.

A redistribution of the water was begun in 1876 under the direction of Mr. Hurry, C.E., and at the end of that year a report showed that there were then within the Municipality 429 houses, of which only 62 had taken water leadings. It further showed that the filter yielded 60,000 gallons of filtered water per diem, of which quantity the town took 10,000 gallons.

The Rates.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Robert H. Black and James Niven, brought up a report in November, 1876, with regard to the raising of a sufficient sum to cover the interest due upon the principal debt, and also of setting aside yearly some amount to a sinking fund for the ultimate reduction of the principal. They recommended that the following rates should be levied upon all dwellings, hotels, trades, and manufactories requiring considerable quantities of water, and having private water leadings laid on, viz.: (1) Private dwellings, 30 - per annum; (2) hotels and all other places of business requiring water for such business, 60 - per annum; (3) and that the Railway Department, which was then receiving a supply up to 20,000 gallons per day, should be taxed at the rate of £500 per annum, which would amount to about 1 7½ per thousand gallons. They further recommended the levying of a rate upon dwelling-houses of fourpence in the £ on the yearly rental, which, it was estimated, would realise the sum of £250.

These various sources of revenue would therefore yield £850 (including £100 per annum from the water service to hotels, private dwellings, etc.) This report the Commissioners considered for a long time, and they at length adopted it.

The Last of the Board of Commissioners.

The last triennial election of Commissioners was held in the Court Room on the 26th February, 1877, when out of ten candidates the following seven were returned: Messrs. John Gibson, M.L.A., F. J. Noyce, F. L. Leisching, M.L.A., Fred. Lange, James Niven, and C. Holmes; the unsuccessful ones being Messrs. Tiffie Savahl, W. Aldred, and J. van Kerken. The newly-elected Board met for the first time on Tuesday, the 3rd of April, 1877, at 4 p.m., when Mr. Gibson was for the seventh time elected Chairman.

The Board took office with an excess of £570 13s. 11d. of assets over liabilities. The first meeting was a stormy one, and broke up in disorder, owing to the behaviour of the Town Clerk. It appears that he was asked to collect the arrear rates, and when he said he would do so for one month only, Mr. Holmes gave it as his opinion that he should be dismissed for presuming to dictate to the Board. The Town Clerk instantly attacked Mr. Holmes with the minute book for "insulting" him, and knocked him out of his chair. Then followed a lively scene, in the midst of which the meeting broke up in great disorder.

The Town Clerk.

These scenes were by no means infrequent, for Mr. Thorn appears to have possessed not only an unusually hasty temper but he was also in the habit of levelling the most biting sarcasms at the heads of the Commissioners. He was suspended time after time, and on four occasions various members of the Board (including Mr. Leisching, M.L.A.) resigned their seats owing to his bearing towards them. If anything were said concerning him, or if the Board refused to take his advice on any particular subject, he would instantly leave his official seat at the right hand of the chairman, march to the other end of the table, and harangue his superiors from there in his capacity as a ratepayer. They used to argue with him in vain; they refused to hear him, they reprimanded him, and he was several times compelled to hand in written apologies. But it was all to little or no purpose. After he had "gone for" the Commissioners as a ratepayer he would return to his official chair and quietly minute the fact that "Mr. Thorn addressed the meeting." But with all his hastiness and his eccentricities he was an excellent Town Clerk, for he had the whole of the town at his finger ends, so to speak, and accomplished an enormous amount of work. It was probably owing to this that he retained his position for so long.

But his bitter speeches caused his downfall at last. In March, 1879, the new Town Council assembled for the first time, and before the meeting had been in progress for more than a few minutes Mr. Aldred moved, Mr. Noyce seconding, that the Town Clerk be dismissed at once, and receive three months' salary in lieu of notice. It appeared that he had been talking freely about the merits of certain of the Commissioners, and had intimated to all whom it might concern that he absolutely

Mr. E. J. Thorn, Town Clerk.

despised them. Such language on the part of so prominent a municipal officer concerning his immediate superiors was more than some of them could endure. Hence the motion to which we have referred. As an amendment Mr. Dolley, junior, moved, and Mr. Dolley, senior, seconded, that Mr. Thorn be given an opportunity to retract his expression of despising the Commissioners, and this was supported by the Mayor. As Messrs. Noyce, Gibbon, Aldred, and Holmes voted against the amendment, however, it was lost by one vote, and the original motion of summary dismissal was therefore carried. Mr. Graham, the Secretary of Committees, was subsequently appointed Town Clerk in his stead. Of Mr. Thorn many amusing

stories are told. His temper, he being naturally of a hasty temperament, was not improved by illness, and it was constantly leading him into the most awkward and embarrassing positions. But when nothing occurred to upset him he was of a genial and kindly disposition, and he was well liked by all who came in contact with him, officially and otherwise. He is still alive, and is passing the evening of his long life in a quiet Devonshire village.

Incorporation.

Meanwhile the Incorporation of Uitenhage had not been forgotten, for Mr. Gibson was not the man to allow anything that he had really set his heart upon to drop for mere lack of enthusiasm. His efforts to rouse the townspeople to what he rightly considered to be a sense of their duty to themselves had the desired effect at last, and by the beginning of 1877 the inhabitants had become imbued with the idea that Uitenhage, one of the oldest towns in the Eastern Province, and perhaps the future capital of South Africa, would be false to itself and untrue to its traditions if it submitted any longer to be governed by a mere Board of Commissioners. Nothing would satisfy the public but an Act of Incorporation and the creation of a Town Council. In his Incorporation campaign Mr. Gibbon was warmly supported by the *Uitenhage Times*, and what with the energy of the Chairman of the Board and the enthusiasm of the press, the idea of a special Act of Parliament not only struck its roots into the minds of the people but bore good fruit as well.

On the 21st of February, 1877, the Commissioners received a requisition signed by thirty-nine ratepayers desiring that a public meeting be called for the purpose of considering the desirability or otherwise of incorporating the municipality as a borough. Mr. Gibbon moved, and Mr. F. Lange seconded, that the meeting take place in the Court House at 7 p.m. on Saturday, the 24th February. The signatures to this requisition are interesting, for, apart from its historical importance, the petition was obviously subscribed to by a representative section of the ratepayers. Most of them, alas! have long since passed away, but as they took part in forging the link between the Uitenhage of the past and the Uitenhage of the present, or, in other words, as they were responsible for the first definite step which resulted in the substitution of the Town Council, by which the town has been governed for nearly thirty years, for the old Board of Commissioners by which it had been governed for thirty-six years, their names are worthy of being perpetuated in this particular work. They were as follow :—W. Lemon, Cecil H. Buckland, F. J. Noyce, Charles Holmes, S. H. van Onselen, Thomas Pell, Henry W. Bidwell, Wm. Thos. Eady, Jacobus van Kerken, J. W. Fleischer, F. Basson, H. O. Dusing, P. R. Heugh, H. W. Harper, H. G. Taute, Joseph Basson, A. Kennedy, H. Hitzeroth, H. M. Fleischer, H. J. Gibbon, James Stanton, J. Padoa, F. R. Alexander, T. Stevens, J. F. Wilson, Thos. Tunbridge, J. Colling, C. D. Bremner, Joseph Japtha, James Harford, J. de Villiers, G. H. Langford, G. H. Cooke, W. Aldred, and A. Thompson. Only eight of these signatories are now alive.

The meeting duly took place, but was badly attended owing to the inclemency of the weather. Mr. Holmes moved, and Mr. J. Young seconded, that, in the opinion of the resident householders present, it was expedient to obtain at the ensuing session of Parliament an Act to incorporate this town as a borough. Mr. J. Gibson, M.L.A., was then entrusted with charge of the Bill, which it was decided to ask Mr. Attorney Buckland to draw up. This was done, and on the 8th of August, 1877, the Act (No. 30) was promulgated.

Magennis Street.

About this time the want of another street for the convenience of four or five woolwashers sending their bales to the railway station was greatly felt, and it was first decided to open up the lower part of Drostdy Street, but at a subsequent meeting the Commissioners resolved to open up the thoroughfare near Mr. Magennis' property, and to name it after that gentleman. This was accordingly done, and the woolwashers in question were thereby saved a distance of over a mile between their establishments and the railway station.

In May, 1877, Mr. John F. Dolley resigned his position as Superintendent of Locations and Assistant Clerk to the Town Office after having filled these and other positions for nearly ten years, and four months later Mr. A. J. Hardy was temporarily appointed to the former post.

The First Town Council Meeting.

Under the provisions of the new Act the first election of Town Councillors took place on Wednesday, 12th September, 1877.

At 3 o'clock on Wednesday, the 3rd October, 1877, the new Council assembled in the Divisional Council Room for the first time, and there was a full attendance. The first resolution passed by the

Corporation was moved by Mr. Dobson and seconded by Mr. Noyce, and by it a Committee was appointed to introduce a new system of book-keeping.

The following were the committees elected :

Finance Committee.—Messrs. Dobson, Catton, and Holmes (who were also instructed to carry out the foregoing resolution).

Board of Works.—Messrs. Young, Magennis, Noyce, and Gibbon.

Water Works Committee.—Messrs. J. G. de Villiers, Dobson, Young, and Magennis.

General Purposes Committee.—Messrs. de Villiers, Holmes, Noyce, Young, and Dobson.

It will be noticed that no Health Committee was appointed ; but matters now dealt with by that body came within the scope of the General Purposes Committee.

Salaries.

The salaries paid to the municipal officials in 1877 were considerably less than those that obtain in these days. The Town Clerk and Marketmaster (Mr. E. J. Thorn) received £250 per annum, the Accountant and Bookkeeper and Secretary to Committees (Mr. J. C. Graham) received £200, the Superintendent of Locations and Town Lands, General Collector, and Assistant on the morning market (Mr. Hardy) received £150, the Water Superintendent and General Overseer of Works (Mr. Alexander Kennedy) £10 per month, the Water Fiscal (C. Gindra) £8 per month, the Street-keeper £8 per month, and an office boy £2 per month.

Caledon Street, Uitenhage.

Amalgamation of Committees.

The existence of so many Committees was found to be attended with numerous disadvantages, and at the beginning of 1877 the Board of Works and the Water Works Committee were amalgamated, as were also the Finance Committee and General Purposes Committee.

The First Rate.

The first rate assessed by the Town Council was one of a penny in the £ upon all fixed property within the Municipality.

Farmers in Distress.

The year 1877 opened gloomily, and there was a very considerable amount of distress in this and in other districts. The Town Council joined with the Divisional Council in endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers, and the Corporation unanimously passed a resolution urging upon the Government the necessity of not pressing the farmers holding Crown Lands for the payment of their rents until the advent of more prosperous times. They further suggested that discretionary powers be vested in the Civil Commissioner. The Government replied to the effect that they were not in the habit of pressing distressed lessees for their rents immediately they became due, but each case would stand on its own merits.

Cannon Street.

Uitenhage has always grown upwards from the river, so to speak, and until the seventies Durban Street was the principal business thoroughfare. The town then extended, and Caledon Street became

the main thoroughfare. Cannon Street was gradually being improved, but the northern side of it was nothing but bush in 1878. Indeed, in that year it was impassible north-west of Church Street to any but pedestrians, and in March the Council decided to have it cleared to admit of horsemen and carts from Church Street to Bains Road.

Lighting of the Town.

The want of lights in the streets at night had long been felt by the inhabitants, and in April, 1878, Mr. F. J. Noyce moved that for the purpose of lighting the town eight lamps and posts be purchased, four to be placed in Caledon Street and four in Durban Street, at the cross roads. He estimated that the cost of each lamp and post complete would be £5, and the cost of lighting a half-penny each per hour. The Committee appointed to deal with the matter, however, went one better, and with laudable enterprise ordered no less than twelve lamps, two dozen extra glass globes, and three extra spirit lighters! Uitenhage was waking up, and the inhabitants must have felt, when first they beheld the illuminating glare shed over the town by the twelve lamps, that their dreams of metropolitan glory were approaching realisation at last.

The Place of Meeting.

The Council met in the Divisional Council room from its inception, and the members were much disgusted when they received a letter from the Secretary of that body demanding a rental of £25 per annum for the use of the hall. They offered £12, but this was refused. The Town Council protested, but in vain, and they had perforce to agree to the terms demanded. This, however, had the effect of hurrying on the work in connection with the sale of the Park for the purpose of raising funds wherewith to build a suitable hall.

Locomotive Cricket Club and Band.

In 1878 the Locomotive Cricket Club was granted a piece of ground between that of the "Southern Cross" and "Uitenhage" clubs, with the same privileges that had been granted to others.

Permission was also granted to the "Locomotive Band" to play in the Square on Saturday afternoons and on special occasions.

A Curious Suggestion.

Mr. Watson, the Chief Resident Engineer of the Eastern Districts, offered a curious suggestion about the middle of 1878. Writing to the Council, he said it had occurred to him that the Municipality might derive some revenue from the sale of water, without any risk, outlay, or inconvenience. He suggested that a price per thousand gallons be fixed by the Council, and that they should supply it to any person residing in the neighbourhood of the railway lines who might find it worth his while to purchase it and to pay the cost of carriage. By this means persons living at Redhouse, Coerney, or Alicedale stations would be enabled to supply themselves with fresh drinking water by rail. The quantities disposed of in this manner could of course be regulated by the Corporation, and the sale stopped whenever it seemed desirable. Mr. Watson, in order to facilitate the delivery of the filtered water at Uitenhage, said he would have no objection to its being drawn through the railway main.

The Council seemed to be rather struck with this novel suggestion, and appointed a Select Committee, consisting of the Mayor, Messrs. Young, Dobson, and Captain McDonald, to bring up a report on the subject. They went into the proposal, but decided that its adoption was inexpedient. The matter therefore dropped.

A Strange Contretemps.

We now come to an event in the Municipal history of Uitenhage which created a perfect storm of anger and derision in the town. To say the least of it, the circumstances were peculiar, and the difficulty in which the Council found itself was unprecedented in its nature.

The second election under the new Act was ordered to take place on the 11th September, 1878, and requisitions had to be in the hands of the Town Clerk by the 28th of August; but only eleven requisitions were received before three o'clock on the afternoon of the date specified. The other four arrived too late, and were therefore rejected. Consequently the Mayor declared the eleven candidates to be duly returned. These were as follow: Ward I., no candidates; Ward II., Mr. Fred. John Noyce; Ward III., Messrs. Fred. L. Liesching and Ernest Pfingston; Ward IV., Messrs. Wm. Aldred and Wm. T. Catton; Ward V., Messrs. J. F. Dolley and Wm. M. Gibbon; Ward VI., Messrs. John G. de Villiers and John Gibson; Ward VII., Messrs. John Dolley, sen., and Samuel Rigg. There were thus three vacancies in Ward I. and one in Ward II.

On the 18th September the above-named gentlemen assembled, and Mr. Gibson was re-elected Mayor. Then the trouble began, for at the next

meeting Messrs. Henry Black, James Magennis, E. Dobson, and Captain Walter McDonald, whose requisitions had been received too late, but whose return would have been unopposed, took their seats at the Council table. It was contended, on the one hand, that they had a right to be there as nobody had opposed them, while, on the other hand, it was argued that as they had not been declared elected by the Returning Officer they could not sit as Councillors. A complete deadlock therefore ensued, and no public business could be transacted. Municipal business was suspended; leases and public documents remained unsigned, and the *locus standi* of the whole Council from the Mayor downwards was questioned. The scenes in the Corporation Chamber were of the liveliest description, and still the difficulty remained unsolved. Under Act 30 of 1877 no provision was made for such a *contretemps*, and it seemed as if Wards I. and II. would be disfranchised for twelve months, *i.e.*, until the next election. The public at length found that the credit of the town was suffering, and farmers refused to place their produce on the market. A great meeting of the ratepayers was held in the Court House, whereat Mr. H. W. Bidwell presided. The evidence collected by a sub-committee of the Council appointed to enquire into the affair was read, as was also the report thereon. But this was totally at variance with the evidence, which clearly showed that the requisitions had been received after the time appointed, while the report was to the effect that they were "in order." It was finally decided to submit the whole case to the Attorney-General (Mr. Thomas Upington) and to abide by his decision. His opinion was that as the requisitions had been received too late, Wards I. and II. were disfranchised for a year, and that the four Councillors who had been nominated and virtually elected, although not gazetted, had no right whatever to attend any meeting of the Municipality and to vote thereat. This terminated a dispute which had set the whole town by the ears for two months, and it is therefore all the more strange that the concluding advice of the Attorney-General was not followed. He strongly recommended that an amendment be made to the Act at the ensuing session of Parliament to prevent similar cases again arising. Some years afterwards a similar case did arise, with precisely the same result. Our new Act, however, effectually provides for such a *contretemps* as we have described, and there is no longer any danger of Wards being disfranchised in this manner.

The Municipal Officials.

In 1879 the question of re-organising the Town Office was considered. The proposal to give each of the officials three months' notice and allow them to be eligible for re-appointment was defeated by a narrow majority, but after the summary dismissal of the Town Clerk on the 5th of March, 1879, a partial re-organization took place.

Market Street, Uitenhage.

Mr. J. C. Graham was appointed Town Clerk, book-keeper, secretary to committees, and secretary to water accounts, at a salary of £250 per annum, while Mr. A. J. Hardy was appointed Market Master, General Collector, and Superintendent of Locations and Crown Lands, at an annual salary of £200. The foregoing officials were provided with a clerk at £50 a year, and their appointments dated from the 1st of April, 1879.

Mr. Gibson Resigns the Mayoralty.

For no less than ten consecutive years the office of chief citizen had been filled by Mr. John Gibson. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in February, 1869, and with the ex-

ception of the three months it was necessary for him to spend in Capetown annually while he was a member of the House of Assembly, he presided over the destinies of the town for the period named. He was only opposed on one occasion, when Mr. Leisching, M.L.A., was nominated for the chairmanship, but that gentleman refused to stand, and Mr. Gibson was again returned. His strong, rugged nature and his fund of sound common sense rendered him eminently fit for the position, and it cannot be denied that there were times when the whole of his strength of character was required in order to deal successfully with the particular difficulties and complications that enmeshed the Corporation at various periods of its existence.

In May, 1879, however, he determined to resign the Mayoralty owing to pressure of other engagements, although he still retained his seat as a Councillor. Mr. Chas. Holmes was unanimously elected in his stead, and a subscription list was opened in town for the purpose of presenting Mr. Gibson with some tangible mark of the inhabitants' appreciation of his long and arduous services on behalf of Uitenhage. This took the form of a portrait of that gentleman in oils, which was hung in the Council Chamber.

Municipal Produce Sales.

About the middle of 1879 Mr. Rigg conceived the idea of initiating regular Municipal produce sales, and after the matter had been considered in all its bearings a decision was finally arrived at. This was that a large galvanised iron shed, 100 ft. long by 30 ft. broad and about 20 ft. high, should be erected in the Square for the reception of goods to be sold by the Market Master. Efforts were made to secure other premises before it was resolved to construct this building, but they all proved abortive, for the rents demanded were too high. £120 per annum was the sum asked for a store that used to stand at the bottom of Cuyler Street.

Accordingly in October, 1879, the iron structure in question was erected near the spot where the market bell now stands, and bi-monthly sales were held there. At first they were well patronised. Farmers consigned considerable quantities of wool, hides, ostrich feathers, horns, etc., etc, to the Municipality, and these were submitted to public auction by the Market Master, the Municipality, of course, drawing the customary dues. But after about eight or nine months the scheme, which had looked so well on paper, and which had begun so promisingly, collapsed altogether for want of continued support, and died a natural death.

Shortly afterwards the town was visited by a small-pox epidemic, and the produce shed was removed to the Graaff-Reinet Line, where it did duty as a lazaretto. The epidemic over, it was again sold to a firm of builders (Messrs. Grant & Downie), taken to pieces, and re-erected on the premises lately occupied by Messrs. Orr & Kelbrick at the back of the Town Hall. Here it was used as a carpenter's shop for some time, but it subsequently took fire, and was nearly responsible for the total destruction of the Town Hall, for it set the back door of that building alight. The shed was totally consumed. Thus ended the first and last attempt on the part of the Town Council to carry on a series of produce sales on its own account.

The First Tree Planting Committee

To its magnificent trees Uitenhage owes much of its great beauty, but our streets were not always so well provided with shade as they are to-day. In fact the town presented a much more barren aspect in 1879 than it does in 1904, for many of the trees had only just then been planted and were still of diminutive size. One of the features of Uitenhage used to be Baird Street, which was lined with orange trees, and when Sir Henry Barkly arrived here one of the first wishes he expressed was to drive down this thoroughfare. But the various evils to which the orange is so easy a prey attacked the trees in Baird Street, and they were eventually removed.

To Councillor Rigg belongs the honour of having been the means of giving the first great fillip to more extensive Municipal arboriculture. In 1879 the Council resolved on his motion to plant trees in all available spaces and streets in the town at the proper seasons, and to request the inhabitants to assist the Council by seeing that the trees received the necessary attention. This was followed by a resolution creating a Tree Planting Committee, the members of which were the Mayor, Messrs. Noyce, Dolley, sr., Rigg, and Walsh. The last-named gentleman was elected chairman of the Committee. Mr. J. Valentine was appointed nurseryman at £8 a month. He was succeeded shortly afterwards by Mr. S. Horne at £10. There are now over 2,500 trees lining the streets of Uitenhage.

Uitenhage in 1880.

The Councillors elected to serve until September, 1880, were Messrs. Samual Rigg, A. Walsh, Wm. M. Gibbon, F. J. Noyce, C. Holmes, J. F.

Dolley, Wm. Aldred, W. H. Inggs, Joseph Young, Walter McDonald, Edward Dobson, Dr. R. G. Lamb, J. Dolley, sr., James Magennis, and Thos. W. Gubb. Mr. Chas. Holmes was again elected Mayor. The estimated revenue for the year was £2,075 from the town account and £1,664 from the water service. Of this sum it was decided to spent £600 on the work of repairing the streets, which, it would appear, were gradually getting into better order.

Proposed Railway Station at Oatlands.

The Graaff-Reinet Line was in course of construction when it was suddenly reported that the Government intended to erect the station at "Oatlands Junction." The town and district instantly rose against this proposed deviation of trade from Uitenhage, and a meeting of joint committees of the Town and Divisional Councils was held in August, 1879, to consider the question. While the matter was under discussion a telegram sent to the *Uitenhage Times* from Capetown announced that the question of the station at Oatlands was irrevocably settled, and that the proposed deviation was to be made for the purpose of bringing the line over one iron bridge instead of over a number of wooden bridges.

It was at once decided to inform the members of Parliament for Uitenhage (Messrs. Mackay and Reid) that there was a strong feeling against this both in the town and district. The two Councils would at once forward petitions setting forth the great injustice and inconvenience of the step, and, in the meantime, they instructed their representatives to question the Commissioner of Public Works in the House.

In short, the attitude adopted by the people of Uitenhage was so hostile to the bare idea of a station at Oatlands that the Government wisely decided to give in as gracefully as possible, and replied to the effect that the project was not settled, but merely talked of! Notwithstanding this, Mr. Mackay wired advising that the petition be sent, and on the 23rd of August, 1879, a large public meeting was held in the Court House, whereat the strongest possible protests were entered against the proposed station, and these eventually proved to be successful.

Small Pox.

In 1882 a very serious epidemic of small-pox broke out in Uitenhage, and it resulted in the deaths of a great number of people. The Council did all in their power to check the spread of the disease, but for some time it seemed to resist their most strenuous efforts. The patients were isolated and heavy penalties were inflicted upon all who neglected to report a suspicious case, or who violated the quarantine. The Sanitary Committee (which was the forerunner of the present Health Committee) was established at the beginning of the outbreak. Dr. Edward Carnall was appointed Medical Officer of Health, and he had quarters in the temporary hospital on the Graaff-Reinet lands. He later received £40 a month for his services. Special constables had to be appointed to enforce the quarantine regulations. The receiving of linen from Port Elizabeth for laundry purposes was prohibited, and so great was the danger of the epidemic spreading still further that it was resolved that the coffins used for the burial of people who had succumbed to the disease should be tarred inside and covered outside with chloride of lime and carbolic acid, while mourners had to be fumigated before leaving the cemetery. The epidemic was not finally stamped out until 1884, when the members of the Sanitary Committee were each presented with a piece of plate costing £5 as a recognition of the yeoman service they had rendered to the town.

Precious Minerals in Uitenhage District.

It would be difficult to estimate with any degree of reliability in what year indications of gold in Uitenhage District were first discovered, but prospecting has been proceeded with in a desultory and spasmodic fashion at intervals during the past quarter of a century.

The Town Council in the early eighties determined to encourage this work by every means in their power, for they saw that if gold or silver or coal could be found in paying quantities Uitenhage would speedily become one of the most populous centres in the country. Accordingly a reward of £100 was offered to anybody who discovered any of the above-named minerals within ten miles of the town. In 1885 this reward was to have been increased to £500, payable on the discovery of gold within a radius of twenty miles of the Town Hall, while the men who were then prospecting were to be granted a sum of £6 a month for three months in order to assist them. But before they could be put into force the diggers abandoned prospecting at Kamaehs and Springfield, and the matter dropped.

The Uitenhage Gold Prospecting Company then came into existence, and at a meeting of the Council held in February, 1887, the Mayor (Captain

McDonald) announced that the Syndicate had just met with very encouraging prospects of success, and said he felt sure that when matters turned out well, as there was every hope of their doing, the town and district would benefit to a very material degree. Unfortunately, however, nothing came of those prognostications, and the hopes of the inhabitants were never fulfilled.

Varia.

The history of the town from this period onwards has been somewhat uneventful. Improvements have constantly taken place, but they have been introduced gradually and steadily. The introduction of the present sanitary system, the erection of the Public Buildings, and the asphalting of the pavements constitute the main items, but these works were not accomplished until long after they were first mooted. It would be profitless to enter into details concerning all of these particular schemes, for this article has already exceeded the limits prescribed for it.

The erection of the Public Buildings was another landmark in the history of the town. In 1892 the old Court House, which had been erected in 1810, was in such a dilapidated state that it was found to be no longer fit for use. It was described as a constant source of danger and discomfort, not only to the resident officials but also to the general public who had to frequent it.

It was unreasonable to expect that a building erected to suit the requirements of the early decades of the century could by any possibility be considered adequate for the present time, and after a deal of demur on the part of the Government they at length decided on building new and more commodious offices, and in 1897 the splendid pile of buildings in Caledon Street was opened by the Premier Sir Gordon Sprigg. We shall refer to this event more particularly later on.

We have now traced the history of the Town Council to a point well within the memory of the present generation. Prior to this the records of the past were involved in much obscurity, and somewhat difficult to elucidate. Gradually, however, Uitenhage emerged from its chrysalis or village state, and as it began to extend in all directions the work of the Town Council increased proportionately; but most of this work consisted of small and minor details, important in themselves, perhaps, but of no historical value whatever. The making of sluits, water-courses, pavements, etc., formed the chief duties of the Council, and by-and-bye, little by little, the town grew to be what it is to-day.

The late George Macpherson.

One of our most prominent citizens was the late Mr. George Macpherson, who was Mayor of Uitenhage for no less than seven years. During his long *regime* several important works were carried out, the chief of which was the piping in of the water from the Springs. This included the construction of a new reservoir at the top of College Hill, and the total amount expended upon this scheme was £20,000. Mr. Stewart was the Consulting Engineer, Mr. Herdman the Resident Engineer, and the work was carried out under the immediate supervision of Mr. W. F. Malloch.

The water service was then extended all over the town, the requisite money being obtained by authority of a special Act (No. 21 of 1896). A curious sidelight in connection with this Act lies in the fact that through an oversight the Draft Bill was not despatched from Uitenhage until it was too late to be received in Capetown by the appointed time. The matter was so urgent that the Council could not afford to lose a whole session of Parliament, and the entire Bill had therefore to be sent *in extenso* by wire.

Rev. Joseph Whiteside
(Mayor of Uitenhage).

Mr. Macpherson died full of years and honour in May, 1902, and a handsome Ionic cross was erected to his memory by the townspeople. He was succeeded in October, 1901, by Mr. Thos. W. Mills, who was afterwards returned to Parliament. Mr. Cradock Parkin succeeded him as Mayor. Photographs of each of the three gentlemen last named appear on the cover of this work. The inscription under that of Mr. Macpherson states that he was eight times Mayor of Uitenhage, but this is a printer's error, as he only filled that position for seven years. The Mayoral chair is now occupied by the Rev. Joseph Whiteside, whose chief work so far has been in connection with the passing of the new Act.

List of Mayors.

The following is a list of the Mayors of Uitenhage, together with the periods during which they held office :

John Gibson	1877-1879
Charles Holmes	1879-1880
Edward Dobson	1880-1880 and 1889.
Captain Walter McDonald..	1880-1888.
John Dolley	1888-1889.
H. W. Inggs	Oct. 1889 to March 1891.
James Maginnis	April 1891 Sept 1894.
George Macpherson	Oct 1894 Sept 1899. 1900-1901
H. J. Gibbon	1899-1900.
T. W. Mills	1901-1903.
Cradock Parkin	Oct 1903 Dec. 1904.
Joseph Whiteside	Jan 1905-———
(Deputy Mayor : F. H. Luyt	Jan. 1905

The Municipal Seal.

It is not generally known that the Corporation Seal, which we have reproduced on the cover of this book, is nothing more nor less than the coat of arms of Commissary-General Uitenhage de Mist, after whom the town takes its name. De Mist was created a baron, and his high rank is sufficiently denoted by the shield, coronet, visor, and crown.

Other Items.

For many years the streets had been in a most disreputable condition, and even as late as 1900 there was not a square foot of asphalt upon the pavements. The war broke out, however, and later on the military authorities created Uitenhage the headquarters of Area No. 4—a tract of country which was nearly as large as Scotland. With the money derived from the Imperial and Colonial Governments as payments for water, etc., the Council was enabled to lay down about two miles of tarred footpaths, and since then the work has proceeded steadily in this direction. At the present time there are about eleven miles of asphalt pavement in existence, to say nothing of the concrete sluits which were also introduced at a comparatively recent date.

With the Springfield Water Scheme we have already dealt at considerable length. This matter was the cause of the most acrimonious controversy the town has perhaps ever known, and it gave rise to two separate parties, who carried the contest to the furthest possible limits. The whole question was whether the opinion of the Government expert should be obtained or not. The Springfield party contended that it should, and that the requisite amount of money ought to be expended in procuring that opinion. The opposition party, on the other hand, held that no further expense should be incurred on the matter, and the general election of 1904 was contested on these lines. The required information was secured, however, at a cost of over £1,000, but Mr. Gordon, the Government Irrigation Expert, has not yet delivered his opinion on the matter.

The New Municipal Act.

The last item upon which it is necessary for us to touch is the new Act by which Uitenhage is now governed. That of 1877 was found by experience to be clumsy and unworkable in many respects, and accordingly a new measure was framed. It was passed this year, and it abolishes many of the difficulties which existed under the old Act. It is a distinct improvement, and under its provisions the work of the town is carried on more advantageously and with fewer handicaps. The greatest change from the old system is that under the new Act one-third of the Councillors are elected for three years, one-third for two years, and one-third for one year (the term of office dating from 1st January), and the appointment of a Deputy-Mayor. The powers of the Council were thus brought up-to-date with regard to the making of streets, sidewalks, the division of land, and the control over the erection of buildings.

It also gives the Council power to carry out a sewerage scheme, and to effect necessary improvements to the town after the usual methods for obtaining the sanction of the ratepayers thereto have been adopted.

This brings to its conclusion the history of the Town Council—a body that has now been in existence here for nearly thirty years, and which, despite the obloquy that has been cast upon it from time to time, may fairly be said to have worked well and conscientiously in the best interests of Uitenhage.

The Present Council.

We may conclude the history of the Municipality with a list of Councillors elected in November, 1904, under the new Act.

Mr. W. James.	Mr. F. H. Luyt.
,, Val Roberts.	,, D. P. Mullins.
,, W. R. Adcock	,, H. Austin.
Harry Ward.	,, J. Nicholson.
H. J. Ruddle	,, J. E. Butler
,, F. Bowker	,, J. Whiteside
,, W. H. Dolley.	,, J. Deacon.
A. W. Dows	

Mr. J. Whiteside was elected Mayor for the year, and Mr. F. H. Luyt Deputy Mayor.

MR. F. H. LUYT
(Deputy Mayor).

The following are the Municipal Officials at the present time :—

Town Clerk and Treasurer : Mr P Thomson.
Assistant Town Clerk : Mr. D O Nartaway
Market Master and Location Superintendent } Mr A. J Hardy.
Town Engineer : Mr W F Malloch.
Assistant to Town Engineer Mr C Luyt.
Sanitary Inspector : Mr. C M Pote
Draughtsman : Mr. J Monckton Case.

MR P. THOMSON, TOWN CLERK.

Mr. Peter Thomson, J.P., was appointed Town Clerk of Uitenhage in May, 1882, and he has continued to fill that honourable position, with credit to himself and much advantage to the town, up to the time of the publication of this volume (1905). From what we have been able to gather, Mr. Thomson is a native of Aberdeenshire (Scotland), where he was born in the year 1848, his father having been a tenant-farmer on the estates of Sir William Forbes, Bart., afterwards Lord Semphill. Mr. Thomson was educated at the Grammar School of Aberdeen, and thereafter at the ancient University of that city. At both of these institutions he studied with distinction. In the senior or matriculation class of the Grammar School he was awarded two first and two second prizes, and at the University Bursary Competition, which corresponds to the matriculation at the Cape, Mr. Thomson stood fifth among 240 competitors drawn from all the best educational institutions in the north of Scotland. Mr. Thomson was still a boy when he entered the University, and although he carried off prizes and achieved distinction in several of the classes, and passed with ease the M.A. examinations in the departments of classics and mathematics, his health, never of a very robust character, unfortunately gave way under the strain, and he was obliged to give up his studies and leave the University before the completion of his full arts course.

After recruiting for a time Mr. Thomson entered a lawyer's office in Aberdeen, and attended the law lectures in the University ; but a recrudescence of chest trouble finally compelled him to leave Scotland and try the advantages of a warmer climate. In pursuance of that plan he arrived in Cape Colony in December, 1876, and in January following he was appointed second master in the Boys' Public School, Uitenhage, then under the charge of Mr. F. H. Brice, where he conducted classes with much acceptance till May, 1882. At that time he was appointed Town Clerk and Treasurer of the Municipality in succession to Mr. John Graham, who had resigned. The appointment, which was most congenial to Mr. Thomson, was considered an eminently suitable one as regards the public, as it was recognised that the applicant's previous legal training specially fitted him for such an office.

Mr. Thomson assumed the onerous position of Town Clerk during the Mayoralty of Mr. Edward Dobson, J.P., a man who, as already indicated, had made a considerable figure in the public life of Uitenhage, and was destined to fill the civic chair for six or seven years in succession. Appointed in 1882, when Uitenhage was little more than a country "dorp," Mr. Thomson has had a singularly unique experience. He has gone through some stirring scenes in his time, and has lived (he is still in harness) to see the little dorp of 1882 steadily grow in size and importance till it now stands among the seven largest towns in the Colony. He has served the Council under nine of the eleven mayors who have held office since the incorporation of the Municipality by Act No. 30 of 1877, and we have heard him remark, not without a tinge of sadness in his voice and a far-off look in his eye, that a strange fatality seemed to be connected with the office of mayor in this town, inasmuch as only one ex-mayor was still alive ; and inasmuch as several of the mayors had died suddenly either during their period of office or shortly after their retiral, that he (Mr. Thomson) had been called on, during his residence here, to take part in the funeral obsequies of no fewer than nine of the citizens who

had filled the civic chair of Uitenhage. A strange coincidence, too, lies in the fact that each of these nine mayors or ex-mayors died on a Saturday and was buried on the Sunday following.

A sketch of Mr. Thomson's career as Town Clerk would be, to all intents and purposes, a history of the town for the period But a narrative of that description must be left to a future occasion. Suffice it to say that Mr. Thomson was not long in office before his trained intelligence began to exercise itself to good effect in the interests of the town and its inhabitants. At an early stage, when the new Town Clerk had occasion to look into the terms of the railway water contract completed with the Government in 1875, Mr. Thomson reported to Capt. Walter McDonald, Mayor in 1886, that the contract was against the public good, bad in law, and ought therefore to be challenged. Legal opinions were obtained from Advocates Solomon and Upington, who unhesitatingly supported that view, and ultimately the Council raised an action in the Supreme Court and succeeded in establishing their case. The result of the decision was that the Municipality was able to renew the contract on equal terms with the Government, and double the price previously obtained for the water. At a subsequent date, during the mayoralty of the late George Macpherson, Mr. Thomson again took a prominent part in the negotiations with the Government that culminated in the existing contract, under which the Council secures a handsome revenue of £3,250 for water supplied to the Railway Department. It is not generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that all new and additional regulations required by the Municipality from 1882 down to 1904 were drafted by Mr. Thomson. Act No. 21 of 1896 was also drafted by that gentleman, and the Act appears on the Statute Book practically without a single alteration on the draft bill.

MR. PETER THOMSON
(Town Clerk).

Postal Communication. Writing in 1841, Mr. John Centlivres Chase remarks that "the communication by post from one part of the Colony to another is sure, rapid, and not expensive." The distance between the Eastern and Western capitals (Capetown and Grahamstown) was estimated at 650 miles of post road, running direct through the towns of Caledon, Swellendam, George, and thence to Uitenhage and Grahamstown. The cart left Capetown every Friday evening, reached Uitenhage on Wednesday, dropped the Port Elizabeth mails there, and arrived at Grahamstown next day. The cost of a single sheet letter from Capetown to Uitenhage was 10d., from Uitenhage to Port Elizabeth 2d., from Uitenhage to Grahamstown 4d., to Graaff-Reinet 4d., to Cradock or Somerset East 5d., and to Colesberg 8d. Letters directed to Europe paid a postage of fourpence each for ship conveyance, exclusive of overland, and generally reached England within eight or ten weeks. The usual return of post between the Eastern Province and England was five or six months, *i.e.*, a letter could be dispatched from and its reply received in either place within that period.

Uitenhage in 1841. In 1841 the district of Uitenhage was much larger than it now is, for it was then bounded on the west by the districts of George and Beaufort West, on the north and east by those of Somerset, Graaff-Reinet, and Albany, and on the south by a seaboard of 160 miles in length. Hence it included what are now known as the districts of Humansdorp, Jansenville, Steytlerville, Willowmore, Alexandria, and Port Elizabeth. It was then divided into eleven wards or hundreds: its area was 8,960 square miles, and it was peopled by 11,019 souls, of whom 4,628 were white and 6,391 coloured. The territorial limits of the district had been most injudiciously laid down, for, as Mr. Centlivres Chase pointed out in his excellent work upon South Africa, a mountain range which traversed the division shut out a large proportion of the inhabitants who could with ease resort to Somerset East or Graaff-Reinet as their chief town, but they were thus, by an arbitrary arrangement, forced to attend the courts, the annual taxation, and all ceremonies connected with the church at the town of Uitenhage. Again, a considerable space—the Oliphant's Hoek—abruptly stretched into the district of Albany, obliging its population for the same purposes to visit Uitenhage, when Grahamstown was easier of access and more

convenient. These were the main reasons for the agitation which sprung up for the re-modelling of the district, and which was eventually carried out. However, at the time we are now dealing with the division contained 2,300 horses, 10,500 head of cattle, 146,000 sheep, and 20,000 goats, among the former of which were large numbers of the Saxo-Merino breed.

The exports of the district were principally butter, for which it had already obtained unrivalled fame throughout the whole Colony, wool in considerable quantities, tallow, soap, hides, skins, horns, hats, aloes, grain, and great quantities of salted beef for the use of shipping and the islands of St. Helena and Mauritius. A large amount of wine and brandy was also made in the district, but it was nearly all consumed on the frontier. In 1841 the following were the declared returns for the district: Wheat, 12,600 bushels; barley, 24,000 bushels; oats, 15,000 bushels; oathay, 400,000 bundles; wine, 4,427 gallons; brandy, 4,236 gallons. There were then 12,000 cultivated acres, 302,000 pasture acres, and 2,000,000 uncultivated acres within the district; four towns and villages, twelve places of worship, seven schools, ten missionaries, nine mills, six tanneries, two hatteries, one candle manufactory, and one savings bank. In 1841 the statistics dealing with the population of the district show that there were 460 births, 195 marriages, and 280 deaths in that year; while 150 people were employed in manufactures and 250 in commerce. So far as the population of the Eastern Districts was concerned, Albany came first with a total of 19,777 (7,710 white and 12,067 coloured), Uitenhage came next with a total of 11,019 (4,628 white and 6,391 coloured), Colesberg being third with a total of 9,026, and Graaff-Reinet fourth with a total of 8,292.

Religious Denominations In 1841 the returns for Uitenhage show that out of a total population of 11,019 there were 4,268 members of the Dutch Reformed Church, 1,000 members of the English Church, 50 Roman Catholics (whose church was then being built at Port Elizabeth), 2,900 "Protestant Dissenters," who had eight churches and eleven ministers, and 150 Mahommedans. Altogether there were then twelve churches and fourteen ministers in this district.

Uitenhage's Greatest Ambition. The following is what Mr. J. Centlivres Chase has to say upon the town and its future. The extract in question is taken from a book written by him in the early forties, and of which very few copies are now extant. It was withdrawn from circulation by its author immediately on its publication, owing to the numerous and unauthorised changes that had been made in it by the printers. They even altered his spelling! "The capital of the country, also called Utenhay, is planted on the declivity of a gentle hill, flanked by a bold ridge of mountains, on the left bank of the Zwartkops River, and about fifteen miles from the sea, in a very rich and picturesque valley, supplied to excess with water by which its fertile gardens are irrigated. It contains 350 houses and 1,500 inhabitants, but its growth has been greatly retarded by its more successful rival, Graham's Town, the capital of the province, on one side, and the neighbouring Elizabeth's Town in Algoa Bay, distant twenty miles. Utenhay has frequently been recommended as the seat of the Supreme Government, which it is likely at no remote period to become. Its central position with regard to the whole Colony, its proximity to the barbarian frontier, whence alone danger to the possession can be apprehended, and the consequent necessity of this being the military station of the Colony; its convenient nearness to the safe and capacious harbour of Algoa Bay, and its extraordinary capability, superior to every site within the comprehensive limits of the Cape Colony, for the erection of a noble city, all point it of necessity the most promising place of the settlement. With an almost prophetic eye to the future fortunes of this spot, the authorities who planned the town thirty-seven years ago laid it out on a scale worthy of such a destiny. It contains a very handsome church for the Dutch congregation, just completed, a fine court house, a clean and well-conducted gaol, with other public buildings; the old English Church is being repaired, and a new one is now contemplated.

"A lead mine exists near the Van Stadens River, but the circumstances of the Colony at the present moment preclude its being worked to advantage, although it is reputed to be very rich. On the banks of the Bushman's River, a few years back, was accidentally discovered a quantity of a new species of alum. Near the Koega River, about seven miles from the town of Utenhay, is a hot spring and a fine chalybeate, much resorted to by rheumatic patients with benefit, and there is also some slight indication to believe that coal is to be found in the vicinity of Algoa Bay. . . . . We must not omit to mention the extraordinary occurrence near the Koega River of immense strata of oyster and other shells, as well as of marine animals

and fish, in a first state, at an elevation of above sixty feet from the bed of that stream, and full ten miles from the ocean. So plentiful is the supply that large quantities of lime are prepared from these shells."

The Divisional Council. Few people know how wide and varied are the operations which come under the control and jurisdiction of the Divisional Council. Hence, with the object of rendering the following more intelligible, we shall give a rapid sketch of the general history of the institution before entering into detail with regard to the local body.

In 1837 an Act was passed by which certain powers and functions relating to the public pounds of the Colony were transferred from the Government to local boards, while in the succeeding year another Act provided for the management of the public roads by these bodies, which were called Boards of Public Roads. Various measures dealing with roads and tolls were subsequently enacted, and they all trended in the same direction—namely, the investment of the local authorities with increased powers and wider jurisdiction. In 1873, for instance, they were enabled to procure additional police for their respective Divisions by contributing to the expense thereof. In 1876 they were requested to encourage by every means in their power the planting and cultivation of trees, and they have done so ever since. In 1881 the management of villages and of other communities which were not municipalities came under the control of the Councils. In the following year Government were empowered to grant loans to public authorities for various purposes, and to make grants in aid of cemeteries. The Public Health Act of 1883 gave the Councils power to levy special rates, and in addition to this such items as the following come within the scope of these institutions at the present day :—The opening and closing of roads, the control of all main and divisional roads, police, and native locations, fences, boundaries, tolls, pounds, the administration of the Public Health Act, of all Animal Contagious Diseases Acts, to say nothing of the extermination of noxious weeds.

So much then for the general scope of the Council's operations, and we may now turn to the history of the local body.

The First Meeting

of the Board of Public Roads for the division of Uitenhage was held on the 23rd of April, 1845, when there were present J. W. van der Riet, Esq., C.C. (in the chair), Messrs. J. N. Streak, W. M. Harries, W. Hyman, and N. Hitje. Mr. F. Alcock was requested to act as Secretary gratuitously until it could be ascertained whether the Board had the power to grant him a fixed salary, and what would be a suitable amount to pay him. The Central Board was asked various questions regarding the application of the moneys received by the Board of Public Roads, and the Secretary was further instructed to represent to that august body the immense traffic on the roads between Port Elizabeth and Graaff-Reinet and between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown. Particular stress was laid upon the latter thoroughfare, upon which the number of wagons travelling was calculated to be in the proportion of 150 or 200 to one wagon using the George road.

The Sundays River Bridge.

It was also resolved to inform the Central Board that the bridge over the Sundays River was a work much needed. But in those days matters progressed very slowly, and the work that was "so much needed" was not completed until half a century had elapsed! The bridge was opened by Mrs. A. H. Garcia, wife of the then Civil Commissioner, on the 5th March, 1895. It was built by the Divisional Council and the Government conjointly at a cost of about £16,000.

New Roads.

The members of the Uitenhage Board must have come to their first meeting well prepared, for not only did they recommend the construction of a bridge over the Sundays River, but they strongly advised the opening of a road over the Zuurberg range to Somerset East, and they pointed out in support of this recommendation that such a thoroughfare would prove of "incalculable advantage to the districts of Somerset East and Cradock, and a large portion of the Graaff-Reinet and Colesberg divisions." It must be remembered that railways had not even been thought of in Cape Colony at this time, and the matter of a new road was therefore of much greater importance then than it is now.

The Central Board.

The Central Board replied to the Acting Secretary's letter with regard to financial matters, and informed him that the whole of the money collected by his Board was to be sent to Cape Town, and they were not to spend a farthing of it. Even the Secretary's salary must be paid from the metropolis. The Board appear to have taken this

very meekly, for they merely wrote back and asked if the Central Board would consent to remunerate their Secretary with the munificent sum of £60 per annum. And they very reasonably suggested that, as they were on the spot, they might be allowed to supervise, under the general direction of the Central Board, the constructing and repairing of the main roads in the division, and also to receive tenders. They also submitted that His Excellency the Governor should proclaim the road from Port Elizabeth through Uitenhage to Graaff-Reinet a main road, in consequence of the great traffic then existing upon it.

These suggestions, however, do not appear to have been considered favourably until some considerable time had elapsed.

The First Divisional Rate.

At the third meeting of the Board, held on the 9th of January, 1846, Mr. Hyman proposed and Mr. Streak seconded that a rate of one penny in the £ be assessed and imposed on all immovable property within the division. Mr. Harries proposed as an amendment, however, that a rate of one half-penny in the £ be assessed. This not being seconded, he raised the sum to ¾d. in the £, but as even this was not seconded, the rate of one penny in the £, payable on the 31st of March, 1846, was decided upon. It has never exceeded 1d. from that day to this, although Jansenville and part of Alexandria districts were then incorporated with Uitenhage.

The Port Elizabeth—Uitenhage Road.

The track over Jagtvlaakte between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage was apparently giving great dissatisfaction in 1845, for in the October of that year it was decided to offer Mr. Fleischer a sum not exceeding £7 10s. for examining the country between the two towns, and for drawing up a sketch showing the shortest and best line that could be constructed. This work was duly accomplished, and the secretary was instructed to negotiate with the owners and the various properties through which it was decided that the new road should pass.

The First Secretary.

Mr. F. A. Alcock was appointed secretary to the Board at a salary of £45 per annum, and it was also decided to hire an office at a rent not exceeding £10 per annum. It must be remembered that at that time the secretary only had to attend the monthly meetings and to write the minutes and the correspondence connected therewith. The rates were collected by the Civil Commissioner.

In 1847 the office of secretary was abolished, and a sum of £1 10s. was allowed to any person acting as secretary to the meetings. In the same year a meeting of landed proprietors was held for the purpose of returning four members to the Board of Public Roads. The following were elected for three years:—Messrs. Wm Hyman, Crowe, Stoffel van Niekerk, and the Rev. P. W. Copeman, while Messrs. H. H. Rens and Niblet were appointed to supply casual vacancies during the same period of time. Mr. H. Tennant, the Civil Commissioner, was chairman, and he was succeeded in October, 1849, by Mr. J. Centlivres Chase. In the same month Mr. J. H. Tennant was appointed secretary, which office had been re-established a few months before.

The Railway.

The first mention of railways occurs in the minutes of the meeting of the Divisional Council held on the 2nd of August, 1859, when there were present Messrs. J. Centlivres Chase, C.C. & R.M. (in the chair), Armstrong, Brehm, Hobson, and Paterson.

A letter was read from Mr. Joseph Lyndall, and it is so interesting that we give it in full:—

To the Chairman of the Uitenhage Divisional Council.

SIR, My object for visiting the Eastern Province is to ascertain the views of the public generally on the question of railways. If the respective divisions which would be traversed by a line from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown will agree to the requisite sub-guarantee, the Eastern Province Railway Company propose to make a proper survey and estimate of the cost to be ready by the next session of Parliament.

We feel confident that such a line might be formed at a cost per mile not exceeding £10,000, say for 100 miles, the railway running through the more difficult part of the country; if a more circuitous line were adopted, the cost would be considerably less. Mr. Woodifield's estimate, for instance, is £4 470 per mile. From what I can learn I have no doubt of the line earning six per cent.

On the question of traffic and on any other points I shall feel much obliged by any information you may be so kind as to give me.

I regret an opportunity does not offer for a personal interview before I proceed to Grahamstown, which I have to do to-morrow evening (3rd of August), but on my return I shall visit Uitenhage.

If the Divisional Councils of Uitenhage and Alexandria would adopt in substance something like the copy of the resolution enclosed, it would greatly further the carrying out of the railway.

I am, etc.,

JOS. LYNDALL.

The following is the resolution suggested:—

> "That this Council is of opinion that the formation of a line of railway between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown would greatly increase the public wealth and the prosperity of the several divisions through which it would pass, and this Council resolves to petition the Government for an Act for the construction of such a railway, embodying the same provisions as that under which the Capetown and Wellington line is being carried out."

The Council deliberated earnestly upon this suggested resolution, and the minutes state that the members were unanimous on the advantages which would accrue from having railways, but were opposed to the principle of sub-guaranteeing the divisions.

It was eventually resolved :

1. That this Council will hail with satisfaction the introduction of railways into the Colony on conditions which will afford a prospect of success.
2. That the energy of the British trader has ever been found equal to the exigencies of Commerce without the direct interference of Government support, and for the Legislature to afford a guarantee for the loss arising from a railway between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown from the public revenue, or a lien or sub-guarantee upon private property, is a direct violation of the rights of property to which the inhabitants of Great Britain are not liable, nor would submit to.
3. That this Council, believing that their constituents are averse, cannot therefore recommend or approve the fixing by the Legislature of a sub-guarantee upon the proprietors of land in this division.
4. That the Field Cornets be directed to call a general meeting of the inhabitants of each ward to ascertain their wishes respecting the sub-guarantee on their property for any loss which may result upon a railway between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown, and to report to this Council.

During the ensuing month a public meeting was held to consider this question, when the following resolution was tabled :

"The inhabitants of Uitenhage, in public meeting assembled, resolve that, upon condition of the railway passing from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown being carried *via* Uitenhage town, the inhabitants are willing to pledge themselves to their quota of the sub-guarantee."

But the old difficulty of "irresponsibles" cropped up, for the field-cornet, who was present at the Divisional Council meeting whereat this motion was read, said that he did not believe that the Chairman or the mover or seconder of the motion possessed landed property. He further pointed out that the public meeting in question was attended by about twenty people, only four of whom were landed proprietors. They had, however, carried the motion unanimously. Yet, when several landed proprietors were asked why they had not been present, they pleaded ignorance of the subject, and said they would abide by the decision.

So far so good, and it only now remained for the opinions expressed by the various Wards on the matter to be read. They were as follow :

Coega.—The inhabitants came to no decision, but awaited further information.

Voor Baviaan's Kloof.—No meeting took place, but the field-cornet reported that from all he could learn the inhabitants were opposed to the sub-guarantee.

Baviaan's Kloof.—The inhabitants in public meeting assembled objected to the sub-guarantee.

The matter was then postponed until the 18th of October, when the reports of other field-cornets regarding the wishes of the inhabitants on the matter of the sub-guarantee were read. They showed that the public feeling was very strongly against the introduction of railways on the guarantee principle. The reports were ordered to be forwarded to H.E. the Governor with a request that they be laid before the ensuing Parliament.

This was the last that was heard of the matter for several years.

The Jansenville Bridge.

At the meeting held on the 2nd of August, 1859, a petition was read from the inhabitants of Jansenville praying that the bridge across the Sundays River should be constructed at Jansenville, and not at Norsdoornplaats as suggested. This petition was made on the score of economy and of the shortening of the route, and it was referred to Mr. Engineer Rogers for report.

The College.

The importance of establishing a college had long been recognised by the inhabitants of Uitenhage, but they appear to have expected too much assistance from the Government. Eventually, however, when the question of selling Crown Lands cropped up, the Council proposed to devote the proceeds of the sale to the establishment of a college. But the Governor pointed out that the Legislature had laid it down at the previous session that "local effort was a necessary precedent to the application for a grant," and consequently, until the inhabitants of Uitenhage had manifested their desire for such an institution on a more practical manner, no bill could be introduced.

The matter was not brought up until February, 1860, when the draft of an address to H.E. the Governor requesting him to re-submit the College Bill to Parliament was considered. This having been forwarded to Capetown, it was announced at the June meeting that the bill could not be

introduced until the necessary requirements had been complied with. Nothing more was done until April, 1861, when the following minute appears :—"The Council cannot refrain from expressing its regret at the non-fulfilment of a hope warmly cherished for the erection and endowment of a college in this town. Salubrity of climate, centrality of position, and vicinage to the great seaport point it out as a most desirable spot. The Council begs to observe that, unlike other divisions of the Province, the pecuniary means of the inhabitants do not enable them to come forward as they would wish, to establish so important an institution ; but it considers, with all due submission, that having within the last ten years contributed to the general revenue of the Colony by the sale of the Divisional Crown Lands so large a sum as £31,409, a portion at least might have been devoted to the purpose."

The Council's Offices.

Until 1860 the Council meetings had always been held in the old Court House, but there does not seem to have been an office definitely set apart for the secretary. In July, 1860, however, the following resolution proposed by Mr. Hobson was unanimously carried : "That a room in this building, or, if one cannot be spared, that a convenient room be hired for holding the Council meetings in, where all the papers, documents, books, &c., appertaining to the Council shall be laid for inspection of members whenever they please to go."

A room must have been granted by the Government, for the meetings were held in this historic building until the new offices were erected in 1874.

Education.

At the meeting held on the 25th October, 1860, the following important letter from Dr. Dale, the Superintendent-General of Education, was read. It marks an epoch in the history of Education in Cape Colony :—

The introduction of the payment of school fees for the elementary branches in the established schools has lately been under the consideration of the Government, and I am authorised to ascertain the opinion of the Divisional Council of Uitenhage on the advisability of thus abolishing the gratuitous system of education which has so long prevailed, and further to enquire what rate of fee the Council would think reasonable and such as could be paid by the parents of those who usually attend the established school, and when the Council deem it expedient for this payment to be introduced. In explanation I take leave to inform the Council that teachers are permitted at present to exact a fee of £1 per quarter for the higher branches, but this fee, except in two or three schools, is not claimed. It is proposed that the fees should be received by the head teacher, and handed over by him to the Chairman of the Divisional Council, to be apportioned as follows : one-third to the head teacher as an augmentation of his income and two-thirds to the payment or part payment of the salary of an efficient second teacher. The increase of the head teacher would thus rise with the success of his school, and the instruction in the elementary branches, so urgently required, would be thoroughly imparted by a qualified under teacher.

The circumstances of the various districts of the Colony differ so widely that I am not able to suggest the adoption of a uniform rate of fee, but the following are, respectively, the highest and lowest which have been suggested or approved :

Monthly Fee.	Junior Dept.	Senior Dept.
Highest Rate	5/-	7/6.
Lowest Rate	1/6.	3/-

The levying of fees will enable the efficiency of each school to be maintained throughout both departments, but, that no one should be deprived of the advantages of a sound education, it is suggested that the Council should have the power to give free admission to the children of those parents who certify in writing to the Council that they are unable either from poverty or from the large number of their family to pay the appointed fee.

This letter was read, as we have stated, at the Divisional Council meeting held in November, 1860, and it was resolved that a Select Committee of this Council be appointed to report on the above letter respecting the Government schools, and that the Committee consist of Messrs. D. J. Aspeling, D. Hobson, and F. Lange. But it was not until February that their report was read. It is so interesting and has so important a bearing upon the educational history of Uitenhage that we give it in full :—

Your Committee, having had under consideration the letter addressed to this Council on the expediency of abolishing the gratuitous system of education in the established Government schools, subjected by the Superintendent-General of Education under date of the 25th October, 1860, beg to report that, in their opinion, the efficiency of the respective Government schools would be promoted by the introduction of the proposed system of exacting fees, and that, in order to allow sufficient time to complete all the required arrangements, and making the proposed change well and properly understood by the public at large, this system, your Committee believe, would lead to greater interest being taken in the schools by the public, as they cannot help expressing their opinion that among very many who cannot afford to leave their children therein for any lengthened period, little regard is paid to what might and could be attained by such children in the schools by their co-operation with the teachers. Your Committee further beg to recommend that the elementary branches in such schools be divided into three divisions, and that the following rate of fees be uniformly adopted :

Third, or Lowest Division—Monthly Fee	1/6.
Second Division	3/-
First, or Higher Division	4/6.

That such fees be paid quarterly in advance, giving, however, the Divisional Councillors the power to grant free admission to those children whose parents certify their inability to pay the appointed fee for all or any number of their children.

The College.

In April, 1861, the Council was finally notified that the Government could not consider the erection and endowment of a college in Uitenhage ; but they pointed out, in reply, that, unlike other divisions of the Province, the pecuniary means of the inhabitants did not enable them to come forward as they would wish, to establish so important an institution. They once again emphasised their previous argument that as they had within the past ten years contributed to the general revenue of the Colony by the sale of Divisional Crown Lands so large a sum as £31,409, a portion,

at least, might have been devoted to the purpose. These protests, however, were useless, and nothing was done in the matter.

The Separation Question and Crown Lands.

Up to this time it had been the custom to make grants of Crown Lands to farmers on advantageous terms. This was largely taken advantage of, but the scheme was attended by many drawbacks and abuses. Besides, the money so raised was handed over to the Government, and most of it was spent in the Western Province. In ten years no less than £31,409 was obtained from the Crown Lands in this division, and yet the Government declined to disburse even a portion of this on founding a college here. Consequently, in July, 1860, Mr. E. Dobson, the acting chairman, brought forward the following motion, which was unanimously carried :—

> "In the opinion of this Council it is impolitic and injurious to the best interests of the Eastern Province to recommend or sanction the sale or alienation of any more of the Crown Lands in this division until such time as a separation of the Eastern and Western Divisions of this Colony takes place, or a proper provision is made for the proceeds of the lands sold in the Eastern Province to be appropriated to Eastern Province purposes only."

The Government replied to this by suggesting that the Crown Lands should be cut up into small plots for the benefit of poor purchasers, but the Council replied stating that they did not think the ground in the Uitenhage division was suitable for any such scheme; and matters then appear to have gone on as before. In the following year a letter was read from the Separation League urging the Council not to recommend the sales of Crown Lands until the question of Separation was settled, but the Council replied saying that they had already anticipated this and would continue to abide by their former decision.

The Council's Finances.

The cash book for the year 1860 shows that the road rates collected amounted to £300, the pound fees to £120, while the percentage received from Government on Crown Lands sold was £150. On the other side we find that the sum of £200 10s. was spent upon roads, £156 on tools, mules, carts, and tents, while the Secretary received £60 per annum.

The Railway Again.

The railway question cropped up again at the beginning of 1861, at the instance of the Port Elizabeth Town Council, who wrote on the subject of obtaining water from the Zwartkops River for the neighbouring port, and also for the construction of a railroad between that town and Uitenhage, but we can trace no further reference to the matter in the minutes. The members of the Divisional Council stated that they desired to be informed of the nature of co-operation expected from them, and there it apparently ended. Port Elizabeth, it must be remembered, was now beginning to grow rapidly, and had already outstripped the mother town in size, wealth, and importance, and a certain amount of jealousy had begun to exist between the two centres. In those days the prevalent opinion here was that the more Port Elizabeth prospered the more rapidly would Uitenhage decline. But that was before the advent of the railway. Hence, it is not surprising to find that requests for assistance and co-operation on the part of Port Elizabeth met with a decidedly cool reception in this town.

Burr Weed.

Up to March, 1861, no reference to burr-weed appears in the minutes of the Divisional Council, but at the meeting held that month a letter was read from a Mr. Cappen, in which he vouchsafed the information that the weed was always to be found on spots where Government mules had been for any time, and that it arose from the animals being fed upon imported oats. What he undoubtedly meant to convey was that the seeds of the *Xanthium Spinosum*, which is most certainly not a growth indigenous to South Africa, were mixed up with the forage imported for the Government draught animals, and that the weed was introduced into the country by this means—a perfectly feasible theory.

Roads.

In the meantime the Council had not been oblivious to the great necessity of placing the roads in a state of proper repair. Previous to the formation of this body the rates, &c., derived from the Eastern Province had mostly been expended in the Western Province, and this created a great deal of bitterness and indignation. Now, however, the Council was able to devote the funds raised in the division to the roads within it, but until the close of 1860 it had been impossible for them to be put into repair, owing to

the difficulty that attended the formation of any efficient organization. The beginning of 1801, however, saw the adoption of the first steps in this direction, for a road party of twenty men, under the superintendence of Mr. M. Muller, was placed on the Great Winterhoek line of road, which opened up the country to the Baviaan's Kloof, Olifant's River, and also the George and Beaufort divisions. At the same time a party of twelve men, under Mr. A. Lange, was employed on the Elands River road, this being the first occasion on which any expenditure had been made on that line, although the inhabitants there had contributed rates for many years. Again, another party of men, under Mr. S. van Niekerk, was engaged in repairing the road from the western side of the Zwartkops River to the summit of the Bush Heights on the old direct Cape line of road. Mr. Mackay, of Hankey, was paid a sum of £125 to make good and keep in repair for one year the road from the Missionary Institution over the Loerie River Heights to the point where the main line of road impinges on that to the Cape. The construction of a road in the Baviaan's Kloof, rounding Antonie's Berg and thus connecting the Beaufort and Uitenhage lines, was undertaken the same year, the annual sum for repairing it and keeping it in repair being £150. These were all the new lines of communication the Council felt able to take in hand just then, but they had several works still in progress which they hoped to complete, more especially the Great Winterhoek road, which extended over 150 miles through the district.

But there was one matter which caused the Council a considerable amount of trouble. The whole of the "immense traffic" of the Province to the port of shipping passed through the Uitenhage division, and thus entailed a charge which the Council could not meet for the maintenance of these particular roads, which had to be kept in order for the almost exclusive benefit of Port Elizabeth. They were therefore of opinion that the rates levied in the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage divisions should be considered as common property for divisional road purposes — Port Elizabeth having but a very few miles of divisional road to keep in order, while the value of its fixed property had been appraised at £599,691, while the value of fixed property in Uitenhage was rated at £530,602—some £69,000 less. There was, as even the *Eastern Province Herald* admitted, "a good deal of truth in the assertion, and justice in the demand" that was made to Government on this score, but no notice was taken of the petition.

On the 18th of May, 1862, the Great Winterhoek road was completed at a cost of £501 17s. 6d. It commenced near Prentice Kraal and extended to Dobellar's Kloof—a distance of 60 miles. Fifty miles of Elands River road were repaired at an expense of £173, and a whole field-cornetcy was thus thrown open to easy and safe intercourse with the towns of Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth. In this way were the foundations of our roads laid, and to-day they may be compared favourably with any in the Colony.

Outspans and Accommodation Houses.

In 1859 the Government issued a notice regarding the erection of houses of accommodation on outspan places along the different lines of communication, and these were placed under the supervision of the Divisional Council. A small charge was allowed to be made in cases where the keepers of such houses made, at their own expense, dams for the convenience of travellers. One can easily imagine what a boon and a blessing such hostelries would be in so sparsely populated a division as Uitenhage then was, and what opportunities there would be for the enterprising innkeeper to make money from the travellers proceeding to and from the port of the Eastern Province. Here is the first list of accommodation house licences granted by the Divisional Council in 1862 :—W. Cressy, Blue Krantz, on Graaff-Reinet road ; H. Allison, Roode Wahl, on Graaff-Reinet road ; W. Clark, Versch Kraal, on Graaff-Reinet road ; H. Cadle, Witteklip (Van Staaden's River), Cape Road ; C. J. Wayland, Gert Kraal, Voor Baviaan's Kloof and George.

Separation.

For many years the vexed question of Separation had been on the *tapis*, and it will be remembered how the Divisional Council had refused to recommend or sanction the sale or alienation of any more Crown Lands in this division until Separation had taken place or until proper provision was made for the proceeds of such lands sold in the Eastern Province to be appropriated for Eastern Province purposes only. In 1862, however, the Council expressed its regret that the Government would not grant permission for the Crown Lands to be leased, as was the case in the Beaufort district, as the Treasury was thus deprived of an important branch of revenue. About this time a proposal to extend the powers of Divisional Councils came up for consideration, but this was interwoven with the Separation question, and Uitenhage was as staunch as ever, as the following resolution will show :

"This Council has seen that it has been proposed in the present session of Parliament to enlarge the jurisdiction of the several Divisional Councils, and by this mode attempt to satisfy the cravings of the inhabitants of the Eastern Province for Local Self-Government; this Council, for its constituents and itself, hereby puts on record its abjuration of all desire to accept any more extended powers which shall in any way impede, procrastinate, or prevent either the removal of the seat of Government or Separation of the Eastern from the Western Province."

A New Village.

In the early part of 1861 an application was made to the Government by a large number of the inhabitants residing on the banks and surrounding neighbourhood of the Groote River (the upper portion of the Gamtoos River) in the field-cornetcy of Great Winterhoek, about 100 miles north-west of Uitenhage, for a grant of Crown Lands, known as "Mantatee's Kop," for the purpose of founding a new village. This application was formerly reported on both by the Divisional Council and by the Civil Commissioner, and the Government was requested to direct the survey and laying out of this fresh nucleus of spiritual and secular improvement, and to direct the sale of erven, retaining certain plots for religious denominations.

Burr Weed Again.

The question of eradicating this noxious weed occupied the attention of the Council so far back as the middle of last century, and to-day it is frequently discussed. But from the time the Council began to take cognizance of it the necessity of doing something in the matter became more and more obvious, while the debates on the ways and means to be adopted became correspondingly earnest. The Chairman of the Alexandria Divisional Council, writing in 1863, pointed out that the weed was growing in great abundance along the main road between the Bushmans and Sundays Rivers, while it was also stated that the commonage was being over-run by it. The Commissioners and the Municipality were therefore urged to have the weed destroyed before seeding time, but nothing was done. Later on, Mr. Field-Cornet Tunbridge, of Coega, wrote stating that although the *Xanthium Spinosum* was growing in great abundance on most of the farms in his ward, particularly on those through which the main road passed and along the banks of the Sundays River, the average cost for eradicating and burning the same on each farm would be about 25/-. This may seem a ridiculously low average, but the reader must remember that we are now dealing with the "good old times" of forty years ago. On some of the farms mentioned by Mr. Tunbridge it would now require hundreds of pounds to get rid of the pest.

Mr. John Centlivres Chase.

For fourteen years Mr. J. Centlivres Chase, a gentleman widely known and universally esteemed in this part of the Colony, had presided over the deliberations of the Divisional Council. In October, 1863, however, he took the chair for the last time, and was succeeded by Mr. J. G. L. Rawstorne, who was acting C.C. & R.M. for two months, and who in January, 1864, handed over the office to Mr. J. Rose-Innes. Everybody who has dwelt in Uitenhage for any length of time has heard the name of John Centlivres Chase. His descendants are flourishing in various spheres here to-day, and many of them are still domiciled in Uitenhage, Mr. Attorney Harry Chase being the Deputy-Sheriff for this district. As Mr. Chase may justly be considered as one of the landmarks of Old Uitenhage, we make no apology for dealing with his eventful career at some length in this column.

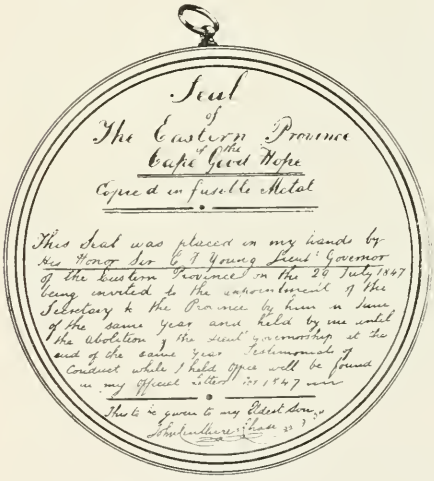
Born at Westminster in 1795, he came out to South Africa with the settlers of 1820, and entered the Government service. After filling various positions under the Crown he settled down in Port Elizabeth and became a partner in a business which embraced in its sphere the somewhat

incongruous items of "whaling and sheep farming." The style of the firm was Korsten & Co. In the year 1847, when he was 52 years old, Mr. Chase re-entered the public service and was appointed Secretary to the Eastern Province Government by Sir Henry Pottinger, and later on he served under Sir Henry E. Young as private secretary About this time the proposal to separate the Eastern and Western Provinces became a burning question. Mr. Chase took the matter up with characteristic zeal, and from then until the time of his death in 1877 he very strongly advocated Separation. The movement, however, came to nothing in the end. We reproduce here a photograph of the seal of the Eastern Province Government, which is now in the possession of Mr. Henry Chase, and which in itself is a very valuable curiosity. It is made of silver, and on the back of the frame containing it is an inscription by Mr. J. C. Chase, which we also reproduce.

THE SEAL OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE

Towards the close of 1847 Sir Harry Smith arrived in Cape Colony and the office of Lieutenant-Governor was abolished. In the following year, however, Mr. Chase was appointed Civil Commissioner of Albert, and while acting in this capacity he found it expedient to recommend the annexation of the territories between the Stormberg Spruit and the Kraai River, as well as between the Kraai River and the Wittebergen. This suggestion was adopted, and resulted in the founding of the first town on the banks of the Orange River. It was named Aliwal North as a kind of memento of the great victory which was won by the British in 1846 by Sir Harry Smith at Aliwal, India. From Burgersdorp (Aliwal District) Mr. Chase was transferred to Uitenhage, where he acted as Civil Commissioner for no less than fourteen years. He finally retired in 1863 at the age of 68, and a well-earned pension was granted to him in consideration of his thirty-eight years' service under Government.

Immediately upon his retirement from the civil service Mr. Chase took up politics, and after serving for a brief period in the House of Assembly he entered the Legislative Council in 1869, where for many years he rendered yeoman service. He fought hard for the advancement of the Eastern Province, and remained in harness until he was considerably over 70 years of age.



INSCRIPTION ON THE BACK OF THE SEAL

He died at Cradock Place, near Port Elizabeth, on the 13th of December, 1877, at the ripe old age of 82, leaving behind him a large number of children and grandchildren, many of whom are still living in Uitenhage.

Mr. John Centlivres Chase was thoroughly popular with every section of the community, and his genial presence was sorely missed when death terminated his career. He was the author of several geographical, historical, political, and other books and pamphlets, and many of them are still looked upon as authoritative works on South Africa.

Some Other Distinguished Uitenhagers.

Is it necessary for us to mention that Sir James Rose-Innes — a son of our former magistrate—was born here, and that, after holding various high places in the Cape Ministry, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Transvaal? Uitenhage, it is interesting to note, has given South Africa another eminent judge in the person of Mr. Justice Lange; but we shall refer to the subject of eminent Uitenhagers later on. Mr. J. Innes was Chairman of the Divisional Council here from January, 1864, until the middle of 1867. A curious coincidence may be noticed in connection with his departure. The Council, on the motion of Mr. Mosel, Mr. F. Lange seconding, passed a resolution which testified to their high sense of Mr. Innes' great ability and of his unwearied usefulness and efficiency as the Chairman of that body. It is strange that the son of Mr. Rose-Innes eventually became Chief Justice of the Transvaal, and the son of the seconder of this resolution—Mr. Lange —became Judge of the High Court of Griqualand West.

Minor Changes.

At the beginning of 1864 the Council resolved to assemble in the Court Room at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. They also decided to appoint the Secretary (Mr. J. I. M. Gie) Treasurer of the Council, and instructed him to deposit all monies collected in the "Standard Bank of British South Africa." His salary was also raised from £60 to £75 per annum.

The Divisional Council Abolished.

We now come to an important period in the history of the Uitenhage Divisional Council, but in order to render intelligible the action of the members in abolishing the institution it will be necessary to explain the reasons which prompted them to take so drastic a step.

The money collected from the "road ratepayers," as they were called, had to be forwarded to Cape Town, where it was spent at the discretion of the Government. Most of it was devoted to roads in the Western Province, and the districts from whence it came received but little benefit. This went on for many years, in the face of strong protests from the Eastern Province. Farmers and others who visited the metropolis always returned to this part of the country with the same tale, namely, that the roads of the Eastern Province were mostly in a disgraceful condition, but that as one travelled further west they gradually improved, until, when one approached the Cape District, they became as near to perfection as could be desired.

At last the people of Uitenhage would stand this neglect no longer. The amount of money placed at the disposal of the Divisional Board was too small to do any appreciable good, and a public meeting was held on the 12th of July, 1853. This was really convened for the purpose of electing members in the place of Messrs. H. Rens, S. Crowe, and S. van Niekerk, who were retiring, and of Mr. J. Niblett who had died. The vacancies were filled by Messrs. H. Rens, W. Hyman, J. Brehm, C. Rademeyer, J. Streak, and C. Smith. Mr. Hyman then proposed, and the Rev. P. W. Copeman seconded, that the meeting stand adjourned until the 25th of the month for the purpose of receiving a full account of the proceedings of the Board during the past nine years of its existence. This was done, and after the transactions of the Board since its inception had been explained, and the receipts and payments during that period examined, Mr. Hyman moved, and Mr. E. Dobson seconded, the following motion, which was carried unanimously :—

> "This meeting is of opinion, after taking into consideration the numerous lines of branch road under the supervision of the Divisional Board, and the limited income at their disposal, that it is a waste of public money to keep up an establishment of paid officers whereby the small income of the Board is frittered away without any benefit to the public. Under these conditions the meeting resolves not to elect any more Commissioners for the present."

The Council Re-Established.

The interval that now ensued lasted for no less than fourteen months, during which time the affairs of the district were managed by the Central Board at Capetown. No other course could be adopted, for the people, as we have seen, refused to elect representatives. Uitenhage set an example to the rest of the Colony, and the agitation for Separation became stronger and stronger. At length the Government became increasingly alarmed, and as a means of pacifying the indignant public they introduced legislation with powers, in some respect, similar to those possessed by the old Courts of Heemraden. This somewhat cleared the horizon, for it was evident that the day was not far distant when the Councils would be allowed to spend the money themselves upon their own districts.

The first meeting of the new board took place on the 7th of November, 1855. As will be remem

bered, the original name of the institution was the Board of Public Roads. This was altered later on to Divisional Road Board, and it was not until the re-establishment above referred to that the present name was adopted. The chairman signed as President until the end of 1856. From that time until now there has never been a break in the history of the Council. The members present at the first meeting in November, 1855, were Messrs. Armstrong, Human, Smith, Muller, and Bellingan; Mr John Centlivres Chase was the president or chairman, and Mr. J. P. Tennant secretary. The latter official was appointed collector of the rates due to the late Road Board at a commission of 2½ per cent., and the first Wednesday in each month was selected as that upon which the usual meetings should take place. The members of the late School Committee, together with the Rev. Mr. De Sauer and Mr. J. Gibson, were invited to associate with the Council in all matters connected with schools and education.

A Battle of Rates.

The year 1855 had opened gloomily, and as month succeeded month the general depression deepened. A severe and protracted drought had brought ruin upon a great number of farmers, the crops had failed, the losses amongst horses and cattle had been enormous, money was scarcer than it had ever been before, and the natives were causing a great deal of trouble. In fact there was every disposition on their part to invade the Colony again under the leadership of Kreli, and the Burgher Act was put into operation. In the midst of all this distress the Divisional Council came into being once more, and one of the first questions to be considered was the collection of arrear rates owing to the late Road Board. These would have amounted to a sum so considerable as to have been most welcome to the Council, especially when one considers the quantity of work to be done. But the members had then, as they always have had, the real interests of the people at heart, and in January, 1856, they accordingly passed a motion which set forth that in their opinion all arrears of road rates due to the late Divisional Board and still owing to the Divisional Council should be totally cancelled owing to the general distress arising from losses of cattle and horses during the past year, and to the general failure of crops that season. Having thus generously written off the outstanding debts owing to them, they imposed a rate of one penny in the £ on all immovable property in the Division, and at the same time recommended the Central Road Board to authorise the compilation of a new assessment roll, as the one then in use was taken in 1843—fifteen years previously—and was now incorrect as regarded the present value of property. This last recommendation, however, was not adopted by the Central Board, as it could not be done without special legislative enactment Three months later, *i.e.*, in March, Mr. Bellingan moved and Mr. Muller seconded that the resolution of the Council remitting all arrears of road rates be rescinded as being illegal, unjust, and impolitic! This was carried by a majority of one — two voting in favour of it, one voting against, and two declining to vote at all. But the matter did not end there. In August Mr. Armstrong again brought it up, and succeeded in inducing the Council to cancel its last resolution. He made a lengthy and eloquent speech, which was considered to be of such importance that it is reported in full in the minute book, and occupies several pages. Finally, at a public meeting held on Christmas Eve, 1856, for the purpose of discussing the desirability of voting a rate of 1d. in the £ for the year that was then drawing to its close, Mr. Bellingan proposed that it was unnecessary to vote a new rate while such considerable arrears of the old rates remained uncollected. This was carried by an overwhelming majority—presumably of townspeople—and accordingly at the next meeting of the Divisional Council (in January, 1858) it was decided unanimously that the arrears of the rate levied for 1858 be not collected, but that the amount collected, in part, for that year be returned to the payers, while all arrears between 1856 and 1858 were to be collected forthwith.

The Control of the Main Roads.

The control of roads passing through a division forms one of the main duties of the Council, but as we have already shown this did not always come within the scope of that body. In February, 1856, however, the Colonial Secretary wrote asking when the Council would be prepared to take over the main roads, but the reply despatched to Cape Town was that the Council did not consider that it embodied the requisite machinery or the capabilities necessary to an efficient surveillance and repair of the main roads of the district, as this class of thoroughfare included the unfinished Zuurberg Mountain Pass, extending to a much greater length in this than in almost any other district. At the same time every assistance was offered, and in the event of the Government being

determined to relieve the existing Central Board of the "road duties" in this part of the Colony, the Council recommended the establishment of a similar Board in the Eastern Province for the performance of main road duties there.

An Echo of the Kafir War.

Sir George Grey was undoubtedly one of the best and wisest Governors this country has ever had, and when he arrived in South Africa in 1854 he found that the Cape was just recovering from a lengthy and bitter war with the Kafirs. One of his schemes for restoring peace and hastening prosperity was to make the natives work. Accordingly in February, 1850, the Uitenhage Divisional Council considered a letter received four months previously from the Colonial Secretary, and passed a resolution to the effect that, as it was the object of His Excellency to afford employment to the natives of Kaffirland who might be willing to work, the Civil Commissioner of the district should be requested to call the attention of persons residing in the town and ward of Uitenhage to this method of obtaining labourers and servants. It was further suggested that parties desirous of engaging Kafirs —single or in families—should leave their names and addresses at the Civil Commissioner's Office, to be forwarded to His Excellency with a recommendation to use his influence in sending out people for distribution. This plan worked excellently, and large numbers of Kafirs came to the Uitenhage district. Some of them are here to-day, as are also their descendants.

The Burgher Act Enforced.

As we stated in a previous page, the Kafirs were adopting a most hostile attitude in 1855. In January, 1856, the war spirit, which was thought to have been effectually crushed four years previously, flashed out again and the Burgher Act was put into operation. Much of the work of superintending the working of the Act lay with the Divisional Council, whose duty it was to see that the Field-cornets served the requisite Burgher notices upon all the eligible men within their wards, to consider and deal with applications for exemption from service against the enemy, etc., etc. The Uitenhage Council, under the presidency of Mr. J. Centhvres Chase, did its work thoroughly, for although large numbers of people claimed exemption on various grounds, very few were successful. Some of the excuses were decidedly quaint. One peace-loving individual pleaded unavailingly that he really could not go to the front because he was a churchwarden! Another begged to be let off because he was the interpreter to the Circuit Court. It was pointed out, however, that no Circuit Courts would be held during the war, so that an interpreter was deemed a fit and proper person to defend his country. Those who pleaded "bad leg," "bad hand," rheumatism and pthisis, were not exempted, but were put down for garrison duty. "Loss of one eye" was advanced as a reason for exemption in quite a number of cases, but in none did it meet with the desired result.

The election of Burgher officers was authorised on the 20th May, but it was ordered to be done in the most convenient and economical manner. The Divisional Council therefore instructed the Field-cornets to have the notices served upon the Burghers by footrunner. The "service" would be completed if the notice were exhibited to the Burgher, or to any member of his family in the case of his absence. The runners were to be paid 3 - a day, but as it was necessary to study strict economy every care must be exercised to keep down expenses.

Burgher Officers.

In November the names of the captains and deputies nominated in accordance with the Act were laid on the table, and amongst them were the following: T'Zitzikamma, Captain A. M. van Niekerk, Deputy J. P. Moolman; Kromme River, Captain H. Maynier, Deputy C. S. Rademeyer; Zuuranys, Captain H. T. de Bruin, Deputy H. J. Roussouw; Zeekoe River, P. J. Human, Deputy M. J. Moolman; Zuurbron, Captain Jacob Zietsman, Deputy A. Munro; Gamtoos River, Captain C. J. Ferreira (J's son), Deputy F. A. Gerber (F's son); Hankey, Captain J. Stuurman, Deputy H. Brinkhuis; Van Staaden's River, Captain Theo. C. Scheepers, Deputy G. D. Smith; Elands River, Captain A. P. Lange, Deputy J. L. Rautenbach; Uitenhage, Captain C. G. Marais, Deputy C. F. Muller, jun.; Coega, Captain E. Tunbridge, Deputy P. L. Ferreira; Oliphant's Hoek, Captain J. M. Scheepers, Deputy A. M. van Niekerk; Zuurberg, Captain J. J. Human, Deputy J. Ferreira; Sundays River, Captain S. D. Potgieter, Deputy J. G. Knaap; Klein Winterhoek, G. C. Snyman, Deputy H. Fourie; Great Winterhoek, Captain P. Krog, Deputy S. J. P. Erasmus. The election of commandant took place on the 2nd December, when Mr. Michael A. Muller was returned as commandant of the Uitenhage Burghers.

We have now shown what preparations were made by Uitenhage and the Divisional Council to

carry out the Burgher Act, and how every arrangement was made to repel the expected attack on the Colony by the Kafirs. Everything was ready, the district was being patrolled, and the invaders would doubtless have had a warm reception had they advanced westwards. But the anticipated hostilities subsided in the most extraordinary and unlooked for fashion without a shot being fired; for the greater part of the Amaxosa nation virtually committed suicide! Chief Kreli had determined to leave no stone unturned in order to ensure victory for his people, and he lighted upon a desperate device for goading them forward in the face of whatever odds they might encounter. The position of the whites had already been strengthened very materially by the arrival of the British German legion, which had been disbanded at the end of the Crimean War, and also by the advent of troops from Mauritius. That he might counteract the effects of this intelligence upon his followers Kreli adopted a plan which eventually not only failed but which nearly resulted in the total extermination of the Amaxosa race. A witch doctor named Umhlakazi announced that he had had intercourse, by means of visions, with the spirits of the old warrior heroes N'dlambe, Gaika, and Hintza, who, it appeared, had been fighting against the British in the Crimea, and who had told him that no aid would be received by the Colonists from their brethren across the water. In order, however, to propitiate these mighty chiefs, to cause them to re-appear in the flesh with all the long-dead warriors of their race, and to obtain their assistance against the English, it was necessary that the ground should remain untilled, that all cattle and sheep must be slain, and every grain of corn and mealies destroyed. Then on the 18th of February, 1857, a fearful whirlwind would sweep the whites into eternity; the sun, rising blood red, would suddenly reverse its course at midday and descend to the east, when vast herds of magnificent cattle, huge stores of rifles and ammunition, and an abundance of the choicest food would appear, while men and women of all ages would be invested with perpetual youth, and the whole race would become immortal. The people believed it! For months previous to the 18th of February, 1857, the slaughter went on, grain was burned, and the soil left untilled. Famine set in. The day at last arrived and the delusion was discovered. Had everything turned out as Kreli had reckoned upon, the starving savages, rendered desperate with rage and hunger, would have poured down upon the Colony in irresistible masses; their foes would have been destroyed or driven out of the land, their flocks and herds seized, their power broken, and that of the Amaxosas reinstated on a firm basis. There can be no doubt that if the people had only fulfilled Kreli's expectations the Uitenhage district, amongst others, would have been the scene of fierce fighting, for it was more fertile and better stocked than those lying to the north. Hence, there must have been considerable anxiety amongst our farmers as to the result of Umhlakazi's prophecy. But all hope died in the breasts of the famished and dispirited multitudes. The prolongation of their own lives was now their paramount consideration. Thousands upon thousands perished from sheer starvation. They dragged themselves painfully toward the centres they had but a few days before hoped to enter in triumph, and the roads were white with the bleaching bones of those who succumbed. The Colonists behaved nobly, and did what they could for the unhappy wretches. The population of British Kaffraria had dwindled down from 104,000 to 38,000, of whom some 30,000 took refuge in the Eastern districts. An Act was passed in June, 1857, regulating the terms upon which farmers and others might employ those of the survivors who cared to enter their employment. Uitenhage came in for its full share of these homeless wanderers, and there are not a few of them here to-day who can still remember and describe the awful scenes which took place in the early part of 1857. Thus was a terrible and desperate war averted by the aggressors themselves, and it was nearly twenty years before the Burgher Act again came into operation in the Uitenhage district.

Lazy and Unwilling Members.

For some time the non-attendance of members had been so frequent as to obstruct public business to a material degree, and matters at last came to such a pass that the Council had seriously to consider the best means of rendering regular attendance on the part of its members imperative. After deliberating on the subject it was at length agreed that, subject to a favourable opinion from the Attorney-General on the legality of the remedy, "any member absenting himself from three consecutive monthly meetings without the sanction of the Council shall, through such absence, be considered as having resigned his seat." Furthermore, in order to obviate the useless and very considerable expense incurred in electing persons who were eventually found to be unwilling to perform the duties of member, it was decided at the same

meeting (which was the last held in 1856) "that no person should be considered as a candidate, or be voted for, whose consent to stand had not been duly notified in writing to the polling officer." These two resolutions are still operative.

Ward Changes.

The population of the district was increasing slowly but surely, and it gradually began to be felt that there were not enough field-cornets to carry on the work properly. The Civil Commissioner (Mr. J. C. Chase) therefore suggested that the wards Zwartruggens and Klein Winterhoek should be divided into two parts, and that the Sundays River ward should likewise be dealt with, each of the four to have its own field-cornet. This was agreed to by the Council and eventually carried into effect.

A New Road to Graaff-Reinet.

The matter of constructing a new road to Graaff-Reinet had been on the *tapis* for a long time. The proposed line of route had been surveyed by the Government Inspector, Mr. Bain, but an apparently endless series of queries, objections, suggestions, and complications arose on the publication of his report. Mr. Stretch—another inspector—strongly advocated that the new road should pass from Port Elizabeth to Graaff-Reinet *via* the Zuurberg, and the Central Road Board seemed to favour the idea. The Divisional Council, which appeared to have been in a constant state of antagonism toward the Central Road Board, instantly objected to the bare notion of Mr. Stretch's suggestion being considered. The road must pass through Uitenhage town as Mr. Bain recommended, or there would be more trouble. The original route advocated by that gentleman commended itself to some, but not to others. It left Uitenhage by the Kabah, proceeded through Doornkom, leaving Sandfontein and Prentice Kraal considerably to the right, thence across the Steenboks Vlakte to Botha's Kraal, thence along the Klein Winterhoek to Paardepoort and Rietfontein (Government ground to be reserved there for an outspan), thence to Rietgat (outspan to be reserved), again to Noorsdoorn Plaats, across the Sundays River, then through Blignaut's Bay Plaats, Ratels Kloof, Paardefontein, Hottentotsfontein, and Kruidfontein Flats. Those of our readers who know the country will be able to judge Mr. Bain's plan for themselves. A road which has ever since borne his name was eventually constructed, but after leaving the town by the Kabah it led across to Prentice Kraal, where it joined the present Graaff-Reinet Road. Towards this latter the Central Board had agreed to expend the sum of £1,000, but later on the Council received a letter from that body asking what amount the Divisional Councils of Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, and Graaff-Reinet were prepared to contribute towards the furtherance of the work. Immediately this enquiry was read to the members in October, 1857, much indignation was expressed. As the Secretary's reply to the Central Board put it, the Council held that this query virtually contained a proposition which had never yet been attached to the making of any main road in the Western Province, and amounted to a departure from all precedent, viz., that of appropriating Divisional Council rates for main road purposes. Finding, however, that both Port Elizabeth and Graaff-Reinet were in complete accord with Uitenhage on this matter, the Central Board wisely dropped it, and in October, 1857, the road to Prentice Kraal was commenced. When it reached that point a junction line was made between the old and the new roads, and thus the second route to Graaff-Reinet was established—an undertaking of considerable magnitude half a century ago.

A Drastic Step.

It must now be apparent to the reader that the Divisional Council was far from being merely an ornamental body in the fifties, but that, on the other hand, it was accomplishing really useful work in many different directions. But, while the members were always prepared to stand up for their rights when it was necessary to do so, and while they usually acted upon the defensive, they on more than one occasion took up a line of attack that would cause no little astonishment and consternation were it repeated to-day.

For some time past the inhabitants of the Eastern Province had felt that they were being more and more ignored by the Cape Legislature, and their grievances remained un-redressed, their just desires were pigeon-holed and left unheeded, their very existence seemed scarcely to be remembered. First they did what they could to improve matters in this direction, but at last their indignation degenerated into apathy, and politics became a dead letter with them. In August, 1857, the Divisional Council took the matter up with its accustomed vigour, and passed a resolution which no public body existing at the present day would ever dream for one moment of considering seriously. But the state of affairs at that time was, as we

have explained, such as to warrant the adoption of a step that is most probably unparalleled in the annals of Cape history. The following motion was submitted by Mr. Billingham for the approval of the Council, and carried unanimously :

> "This Council conceives it to be its duty as a representative body to advise the Executive of the opinion entertained by their constituents respecting the position of the Eastern Province with regard to its assumed representation in the Legislative Council, where recent events have proved it to have no efficient and reliable influence, and which has induced an indifference to the privileges of electing members to the Legislature. This is evidenced by the fact that no requisition has been made by any part of this division to induce representatives to attend the Colonial Parliament in Cape Town, and the Divisional Council believes it to be its duty to recommend its constituents to abstain from registering their votes at the ensuing election."

In other words, not a single individual in the Uitenhage division had offered himself, or had been asked to offer himself, as a candidate for legislative honours, and if one had been bold enough to do so the Divisional Council would immediately have circularised the whole of the electors and advised them not to vote for him !

Comparative Value of Fixed Property.

The following figures are interesting, as they clearly indicate the extent to which the old division of Uitenhage had improved in value during the period between 1844 and 1859 :

WARD.	1844	1859.	TOTAL.
Uitenhage Town	£37,420	£112,433	£112,433
Uitenhage Ward	2,225	22,775	22,775
T'Zitzikamma / Zuuranys \	13,615	32,155 / 20,725 \	52,880
Kromme River / Zeekoe River \	13,050	10,575 / 54,848 \	65,423
Gamtoos River / Zunrbron / Hankey \	17,080	21,110 / 34,425 / 60,000 \	145,535
Van Staadens River / Elands River \		41,050 / 14,100 \	55,150
Coega	19,350	42,280	42,280
Sundays River / Great Winterhoek / Klein Winterhoek \	11,780	40,400 / 36,300 / 28,645 \	105,345
Voor Baviaan's Kloof / Van Baviaan's Kloof \	10,790	30,725 / 16,350 \	47,075
Zwart Ruggens	8,475	70,750	70,750
Riet River	11,300	50,788	50,788
Total Valuation for 1844 ..	£173,350	1859 ..	£825,810

General Progress.

The year 1865 was an important one in the history of the Divisional Council, for several material changes were effected in the working of that body. The first and most important was that the maintenance and repair of the main roads was transferred from the charge of the Government to the Council itself on the 1st of January, 1865. The new duties in this direction had to be undertaken at the shortest notice, and when funds were at their lowest ebb, and a heavy outlay had to be incurred in the purchase of carts, mules, harness, spades, &c.—these items alone amounting to a sum of £450. At this time there were 260 miles of main and 250 miles of branch roads to be kept in repair. The departmental system was the first to be tried, and it is a record that the result of this plan was that the repairs had been done more efficiently and at less cost than would have been the case had the contract system been adopted.

Tolls

were established during the year at Van Staaden's Heights, at the Upper and Lower Zwartkops Drifts, Coega Kamma, Prentice Kraal, and Roodewahl. Two of these were upon branch roads and the rest upon main roads. These sources of revenue yielded £255 17s. 2d. from branch roads, and £1,072 14s. 3d from main roads, giving a total of £1,328 11s. 5d. The payment of initial expenses and salaries left a net revenue of £521 from tolls, but as the cost of the erection of toll houses and gates, £267, would not be incurred again, the toll revenue was computed at £800 per annum. The gross receipts from the roads for the year were £4,764, while the expenditure charged to this item amounted to £5,415.

Pounds.

Another change was inaugurated with regard to the pounds. Hitherto the impounded cattle, &c., had been sold at the places where they were confined, but by bringing them to town, and submitting them to public auction on the Market Square, more competition was secured, and therefore better prices were realised. The net proceeds of pound sales during the year was £155, as against the average of £100 in previous years.

Crown Land.

The Crown Land question was a very vexed one in the sixties, and it was prolonged for many years after once it had been started. There were more vacant Crown Lands in the Uitenhage division than in any other in the Colony, and great numbers of applications were received for grants thereof. The farmers undoubtedly had a real grievance against the Government, for after they had paid the requisite deposit for surveys and

diagrams, inspections were made in the usual way—at the applicant's expense, of course—and there the matter ended until years and years had elapsed, and in very many cases the legal right of occupancy was never given. Hence, the money spent by the unfortunate applicant might as well have been thrown into the sea. Judging by what we can gather from the innumerable letters of complaint and remonstrance received by the Divisional Council from disappointed and indignant farmers, it would appear that the regulations for the lease and sale of Crown Lands had not been made applicable to the Uitenhage district. The Council were powerless to do anything but protest against the unjust line of action that continued to be pursued by the Government. "This unaccountable delay," they said in their annual report, "has caused much disapprobation, and in no part of the Colony does squatting prevail to so great an extent as here. It is not to be wondered at that, under the circumstances, cattle and sheep stealing are the crimes which contribute most largely to the Circuit calendar."

In the following year the Council again urged the Government to lease or sell the Crown Lands in the district, as it was unjust to those who had applied and deposited expenses to delay any longer. Coloured squatters and others were encouraged to occupy land, their stock increased far more rapidly than it could from natural causes, while that of the farmer decreased accordingly. In short, the matter was rapidly becoming a most intolerable nuisance, for stock theft was continually on the increase. Much discontent existed in consequence, and many farmers were preparing to leave a country where they had no protection against that thieving which the leasing of Crown Lands would check. The Council also pointed out to the Government that owing to drought, cattle diseases, etc., there was great poverty in the district amongst persons affluent a few years previously, and further taxation would seem insupportable. But the disposal of Crown Lands would produce a considerable revenue. The grievance, however, still continued, and the Government threw every obstacle in the way of the lands being sold or leased; and it was with the utmost difficulty that people who had paid heavy deposits, and who had incurred considerable expenses under the heads of survey, diagrams, inspections, etc., years before, could obtain permission to take up their abode on what was virtually their own ground. The applications were first made through the Divisional Council, the deposit paid to that body, and forwarded by it to the Government, together with a recommendation, favourable or otherwise. We shall see later on how the matter was eventually settled.

Niven's Drift.

This was constructed in 1866, but was then known as the Cuyler Street Causeway. Mr. Niven agreed to do the work at a cost of £35. The Municipal Commissioners had agreed to pay £17 10s. towards this, but they subsequently wrote the Divisional Council asking that this amount might be foregone, as they already had in hand the construction of another road across the river from the foot of Baird Street, and could hardly meet the cost of it. The Divisional Council replied stating that as the Cuyler Street Causeway had cost over £100 instead of £35—Mr. Niven's original estimate—the £17 10s. must be paid. This was eventually done, but not without a considerable amount of grumbling on the part of the Municipality.

Tramways.

If Uitenhage was not great in size in 1866 it certainly was ambitious, for toward the close of that year the Divisional Council appointed a special committee to ascertain whether tramways could not be borrowed or purchased either from the Government or from the Port Elizabeth Harbour Board. Replies, however, were received from the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Thos. Wormald, Secretary to the Harbour Board of Port Elizabeth, stating that they had not at their disposal any material for tramways.

The Circuit Court.

Retrenchment was the order of the day with the Government in 1867, and in order to save additional expenditure Uitenhage was omitted from the Circuit Court list at the beginning of the year, the session taking place in Port Elizabeth instead. The Divisional Council petitioned the Governor to re-instate the town on the list, but he refused. After the judge had left Port Elizabeth, therefore, the Council passed a resolution stating that, as great public loss and inconvenience had been caused by the removal of the court from Uitenhage to Port Elizabeth, they would take the sum of £75 from the pound fee fund and send it to the Registrar of the Eastern Districts Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the judge and his staff when next they visited the town. Mr. Mosel, a member of the Council, was deputed to carry out the necessary arrangements for the

circuit accommodation. The Government refused to accept this suggestion on the part of the Council, and the next Circuit was set down as including Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth—to be held in the latter town. Telegrams were at once sent to Mr. Tennant, M.L.A., and to Mr. Justice Denyssen himself, laying the position before them, and asking them to do all in their power to have a day fixed for the hearing of Uitenhage cases in this town. A deputation, consisting of Messrs. Tennant, Solomon, and Pilkington, then waited upon the Governor, who eventually granted their petition.

Sale of Tolls.

In 1868 the sale of tolls was attended with the most gratifying results, and the prices realised show how great the traffic on the roads must have been in those days. The toll at Coegakamma Kloof was sold to Mr. Vermaak for £219, that at Van Staadens to Mr. Isaac Newton for £340, the one at Coegas Kop to Mr. Pearcy for £700, and that at Prentice Kraal to Mr. W. Gibbon for £410. The total therefore amounted to no less than £1,669. In every case the amount realised far exceeded the sum anticipated by the Council, and the Committee appointed to supervise the sale stated in their report that it was now clearly shown, beyond any doubt, that the putting up of these tolls to public competition was most satisfactory to all parties, and the only course by which the Council and the public were gainers to a considerable sum.

The Sundays River Ferry.

For many years those who had occasion to cross the Sundays River were ferried over in a punt, which was situated close to the spot where the Mackay Bridge now stands. The ferry was leased by the Divisional Council at an annual rental of £300, and the lessees appear to have done fairly well out of it for a considerable time. They eventually became insolvent, however, and on the "lease of the waterway," as it was called, being submitted to public competition, it was purchased by Mr. R. W. Metelerkamp, the sum being £300 per annum. But the former owners declined to give up possession and a law suit ensued. The Supreme Court eventually granted an order compelling them to surrender the waterway to the new lessee. The old punt had to be removed and the new one formally taken across the river by 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 29th of September, 1869. This was not so easily accomplished as it might have been, for the former owners fiercely opposed every step in the operations. Mr. Attorney D'urban Dyason conducted the proceedings at the river, and from his description of the scene it would appear that matters all but culminated in a free fight. The former lessees refused to move their punt, or to allow it to be touched. The assistance of the road party was then procured, and they acted as a guard while the ferry was unmoored and removed to a spot lower down the river. The new punt was then got in readiness for its first passage, but the former lessees and their men charged down on it and endeavoured to cut the tow ropes. They were repelled by the road party, who attempted to duck their opponents in the water. Eventually, however, the punt swung out into midstream, with one or two passengers on board, and legal possession was thus established. This mode of transferring travellers and vehicles across the river continued until 1895, when the Mackay Bridge was opened. The trouble did not end there, however, for legal negociations with regard to damages, compensation, etc., etc., continued for many months. The Ferry Committee eventually offered on behalf of the Council to compromise in the case brought against that body by the insolvents, but the Council absolutely refused to confirm their action, and passed a vote of censure upon the Committee for the unauthorised steps they had taken in the matter. The members of this Committee then left the room, and for two months no meetings could be held, owing to their non-attendance—the requisite quorum being five. Later on, however, the case came to a head, the former lessees of the ferry agreeing to pay the sum of £500 (rent of ferry and costs of suit).

The Jansenville Bridge.

The matter of constructing a bridge across the Sundays River, on the Graaff-Reinet road, was occupying the attention of Government in 1872, and it was proposed to erect one at Noorsdoorn Plaats, but the Council pointed out that the banks of the Drift there were frequently overflown during floods, and rendered impassible for traffic. They suggested, however, that in their opinion a much more suitable site would be found at Jansenville, and they strongly recommended that the bridge be constructed there. This action was cordially supported by the public, but there was nevertheless some opposition to it, owing to the fact that, if the Jansenville site were selected, the road to Graaff-Reinet would be diverted. The Government was appealed to, and upheld the suggestion to carry

the main road through Jansenville village, instead of across Noorsdoorn Plaats. The Graaff-Reinet Council concurred in this view, and in the face of some opposition it was decided to apply for the deviation to be made and considered as a Divisional Road. In April, 1873, the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works wrote stating that the reasons advanced by the Divisional Councils of Graaff-Reinet and of Uitenhage appeared sufficient to warrant a change in the site of the bridge, provided the cost of constructing it at Jansenville would not far exceed the cost of that originally contemplated at Noorsdoorn Plaats. The approaches were commenced under the supervision of Mr. Osborne, C.E., early in 1874.

District Police Force.

Owing to the great increase in stock thefts and other crimes peculiar to natives, the Divisional Council decided in October, 1873, that a Mounted Police Force should be organised in the district. The Government, on being applied to, stated that the cost would amount to £90 per man, and that the maintenance of fourteen would therefore cost £1,260 per annum. To this amount the Council agreed to contribute one-third, namely, £420, yearly, and the force was thereupon established. It was subsequently augmented by a number of coloured constables, both mounted and unmounted.

The Divisional Council Offices.

In 1874 the Council purchased for the sum of £150 the piece of ground in Caledon Street on which the offices now stand.

Police

In October, 1874, the Resident Magistrate of Jansenville wrote stating that although his district contained but two field-cornets, there were only two Divisional Policemen there! It was then resolved to increase the force and to appoint the then Road Inspector (Mr. Clarke) Inspector of the Divisional Police as well. At the end of the year the force was distributed as follows: Uitenhage four mounted police, Kleinpoort one mounted and two foot, Bucklands one mounted and one foot, Jansenville four mounted and two foot. The Council supplied these men with mounts, equipment, and uniforms, for which £3 per month was stopped from the pay of each man. Four of the men were continually on patrol from farm to farm, and they had to obtain the signatures of the farmers and report themselves at regular intervals to head-quarters. Since the establishment of this body cases of theft, &c., have greatly diminished

A New Pontoon.

The old pont at Sundays River sank in 1874, it having been washed down the river by a great storm, and at the beginning of 1875 the Government informed the Divisional Council that the new pontoon was completed and would be sent round by the steamer. It had been built in Capetown, and was one hundred feet long, sixteen feet broad, constructed of teak, metal sheathed, and independent of flaps. It was, of course, dispatched in sections, which were numbered so as to facilitate its being put together. It was launched on the 21st of May, 1875, by Mr. Gie, the Acting Chairman of the Council, and was christened the *C. A. Smith*. Two months later, however, the river rose suddenly and the pontoon broke loose from her moorings. She drifted down the river and eventually grounded on the bar. Next morning she was found high and dry on the beach, about 150 yards from the river.

A sub-committee was immediately appointed by the Divisional Council at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, and the members thereupon proceeded to the scene of the disaster. They found the superintendent and his assistants up to their knees in mud getting a heavy passenger cart on to the small pontoon, and when this had been accomplished they rowed six miles down the river to the spot where the pont was stranded. It was lying on the beach below high water mark, quite full of water, which was spouting through breaches in her sides. A Government expert then arrived, and recommended that the structure be at once taken to pieces, as it could not possibly be re-floated as it then was. All traffic, except such as could be conveyed across the river on the small pont, was suspended. The Committee then took evidence at great length, and attributed the escape of the pont to three causes—the treacherous nature of the river, the immense length and height of the pontoon, and the omission of the superintendent to anchor it securely on the night of the disaster.

Death of Mr. Mosel.

One of the most popular and indomitable members of the Council, in the person of Mr. Julius Mosel, died in the early part of 1875, and he was sadly missed and mourned by all who knew him.

The Divisional Council Buildings.

The buildings at present occupied by the Divisional Council were completed in June, 1875, and it was generally felt that they ought to have been erected ten years previously, when the

maintenance of the main roads was placed among the duties of this useful public body. However an institution with an annual expenditure of from six to eight thousand pounds, and responsible for the maintenance of from eight to nine hundred miles of road, could have carried on its work for ten years without an office of its own, is beyond comprehension.

The new building provided all the accommodation that was required for the effective and economical working of the Council. Firstly there is a spacious room in which the Council meetings are held, and it is always open to those of the public who have a right to attend the deliberations of their own Divisional Parliament. Hitherto, as we have already shown, the place of meeting had been the old Court House, and, although it is recorded that the representatives of the Government were always courteous and obliging, the arrangement seriously interfered with the business both of the Council and the Government.

Next, in the present building there are offices for the Secretary and the Inspector of Roads. Prior to the opening, the only place where the Secretary could transact his business and stow away his papers was a little, ill-ventilated, and badly lighted apartment into which obstinate juries used to be shut and smothered into submission. It was literally not large enough to swing a cat round, even had the secretary had time and desire to indulge in that kind of recreation; and yet in this office rates to the amount of thousands were annually paid, and whenever the room was required for its legitimate use, which was very frequently, the secretary was bundled out with his papers, and the business of the office was suspended. As for the inspector, he had no office at all. In 1875, however, this state of affairs was changed, and both these officials were provided with spacious and comfortable offices, where they could arrange their papers, and put things into that order without which it is next to impossible to conduct an extensive and important business.

Another very important part of the newly-erected buildings was the stabling, the cart sheds, and the store-houses. The annual loss to the Council for want of these places must have amounted to many times the interest on the cost of putting up these buildings. In the first place, the Council at that time employed a great number of mules and Scotch carts, and had been large purchasers of forage. For the want of a place to store forage a system of purchase that can only be described as a "from hand to mouth" one had to be adopted. Now, however, the inspector, or whoever bought forage for the Council, was able to avail himself of a cheap market, and to lay in a stock. The annual saving from this source alone was very considerable. Next come the stables. Hitherto, when mule drivers from country road parties came to town there was no stable for their animals, the mules had to be turned out, and the drivers went to their friends in the location. The result of this was the frequent loss of mules by the Council.

Then there are the cart sheds, tool sheds, etc. The only store-room hitherto at the disposal of the Council was a sort of superannuated black hole in the prison; and although the Government exacted no rent for this place, yet it cost the Council an annual gratuity to the gaoler, who, to a certain extent, was custodian of as many articles as could be bundled into this cell.

Altogether the building is a distinct acquisition to the town and district. Foremost amongst those who were instrumental in bringing it into existence was the late Mr. Mosel, and it is interesting to note that, as a mark of appreciation of his long and valuable public services, and as a singularly appropriate recognition of the interest he took in the work of erecting the present Divisional Council Offices, a sum of money was subscribed for a life-sized oil painting of him, and this portrait now hangs in the assembly room.

The first meeting of the Council in the new building took place on the 16th of July, 1875, and it has been used for this purpose ever since.

Opening of the Jansenville Bridge.

The opening of the Jansenville Bridge on the 25th of April, 1875, may be regarded as one of the greatest events that has ever taken place in the midland districts. It was the inauguration of the first public work of any magnitude in these parts, and of the first bridge over that furious, dangerous, and treacherous torrent, the Sundays River. Statistics were compiled by the merchants of Port Elizabeth and subsequently criticised in Parliament, showing that more traffic passed over the road to Graaff-Reinet than over any line in the Colony, and it will therefore be seen, even at this distant date, that the opening of this bridge was an event that interested Port Elizabeth, Graaff-Reinet, and the districts beyond, quite as much as it did Uitenhage.

The structure is a truly noble one, and spans the river just above the drift near the public buildings. It stands so high above the banks as to form a prominent object as one approaches the village, and, before the water reaches it, the flood

must rise so high that half the town of Jansenville will be inundated.

The opening function was an interesting one, and the structure was most tastefully decorated for the occasion with flags and bunting and appropriate mottoes. Mrs. Maskew, wife of the engineer, proclaimed the bridge open for public traffic in the name of the Government, and performed the christening ceremony by breaking a bottle of champagne.

A few facts relating to the bridge will be interesting. The preliminary surveys were commenced by Mr. de Smit in October, 1873. In December the first working party arrived under Mr. Laurence, and a good deal of time was necessarily spent in building barracks for the men and in excavating for the pier. When Mr. Jardine took over the works in August, 1874, only half the pier had been completed. In December, 1874, a month rendered ever memorable for its floods and the destruction of bridges, the Sundays River rolled down its angry waters and threatened to overwhelm the village. But the Jansenville bridge, unfinished though it was, withstood the stream magnificently, although the waters dashed on and over the pier, and while other structures were washed away wholesale, this one stood fast. The stone work was found to be perfectly secure, and the only loss sustained was some £10 worth of tools. Then for four months all work ceased while the bridges at Cookhouse and Tarka were being repaired. Meanwhile, the iron structure arrived from England, and, to the credit of the Jansenville carrying trade, the whole of the iron (110 tons) was delivered in one month, without a single accident or dispute, at a cost of £743. The difficult job of "launching" the bridge was performed without mishap, and the structure was at last completed and declared open The cost of the bridge was £8,350, which was £1,700 less than the estimated expense.

Periodical Wool Sales.

The woolwashing industry was at its best in the seventies, and in February, 1876, Mr. Philpott, Chairman of the Council, moved that the time had arrived when periodical wool sales should be held in Uitenhage, and that steps should be taken to establish the same. He had been told by a leading merchant of Port Elizabeth that this was a step Uitenhage ought to take. But at that time a considerable amount of bitterness, or rather of jealousy, existed between the two towns, and the Chairman intimated that although the Port Elizabeth people believed Uitenhage ought to hold these sales, it would be a long time before they hinted that such a step should be adopted.

Uitenhage a Borough.

At the same meeting of the Council a resolution was passed in favour of taking the requisite steps to incorporate Uitenhage as a borough.

The heavy rains in the beginning of 1876 did tremendous damage to the roads, and the Council almost despaired of getting them into a state of proper repair again. The Inspector declared that an additional £1,000 would have to be voted if the thoroughfares of the district were to be put to rights. At this juncture Mr. Paterson intimated that he was willing to contract for maintaining the whole of the roads for £4,500 per annum, and this offer was warmly supported by Mr. H. W. Bidwell, who pointed out that this tender was £400 less than the cost in the previous year, and would save them £1,400 in the succeeding year. His motion that this tender be accepted was lost, however, and the old system adverted to.

In 1876 Mr. Cooke, the Inspector of Roads, resigned his position, after many years' service. The reason of his leaving the Council's employ was that the office of Inspector of Divisional Police had been abolished, and that his income was reduced to £300 per annum. This, coupled with the great amount of travelling he had to do—400 miles per month—and the indifferent state of his health, rendered his resignation necessary. He was succeeded by Mr. Judd, who had until then acted as Stationmaster at Sandflats. He had previously filled a similar situation in Illinois, U.S.A., and he was selected by the Divisional Council out of twenty-one applicants. In October, however, he disappeared. The *Uitenhage Times* said the prevailing opinion was that he had postponed his return *sine die*. It was to be hoped, remarked the paper, that the Council's next selection might be made from the ranks of local talent.

The Capital of the Eastern Province.

When the question of Separation was on the *tapis*, there was one matter which occasioned a fierce dispute, and that was the prospective capital of the Eastern Province. Grahamstown claimed the honour, but Uitenhage believed herself entitled to it. The case for both was set forth with great minuteness on either side, and here is the one submitted by Uitenhage. It was written in 1877 by Mr. John Paterson, M.L.A. He begins by

stating that Uitenhage was the only proper place for the purpose, and was placed in a situation marked out by Nature herself. The more he became acquainted with the geography of the country, and all its varied relationships, the more he became convinced that his first favourable opinion of Uitenhage as the most suitable site for the seat of Government was well considered and strictly correct.

The Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth Divisional Councils.

As time went by, the work of the Divisional Council became more and more extended ; but the records of the proceedings become less and less interesting the nearer they approach to the present day. The minutes consist mostly of humdrum particulars regarding such subjects as roads, drains, pounds, &c., &c., and, therefore, we may now pass on more rapidly than we have hitherto done.

In 1878 there was a considerable amount of feeling rife as to the position occupied by the Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth Divisional Councils. The subsidy paid to the former by the seaport Council had been withdrawn, and it was generally felt in Uitenhage that this ought to be restored. Our local body certainly had a grievance. They commenced the business of 1879 with a *debit* balance of £1,492 2s. 6d., while the Port Elizabeth Council boasted a *credit* balance of over £2,000. The length of roads under the charge of the Uitenhage Council was 580 miles, while the length of roads under the charge of the Port Elizabeth Council was only 30 miles. The value of the fixed property in Uitenhage district as assessed for rating purposes was £865,753, while that in the Port Elizabeth division amounted to £1,364,794. Thus in the division of Uitenhage every £1,492 worth of property was chargeable with the maintenance of a mile of road, while in Port Elizabeth every £45,493 worth of property was chargeable with a mile of road. Hence, the burden borne by the Uitenhage ratepayer was just thirty times that of his Port Elizabeth neighbour ! A rate of 1d. in the £ in Uitenhage produced £3,617, which, divided amongst the 580 miles of road, gave £6 4s. 8d. per mile, while, on the other hand, a rate of 1d. in the £ in Port Elizabeth produced £5,686 12s. 10d., which, divided amongst the 30 miles of road, gave £189 11s. per mile. The rates in the Uitenhage division were extremely difficult and expensive to collect, for the population was a little over three to the square mile—and the district was 6,233 square miles in extent, and the people were mostly in poor circumstances. The neighbouring division, however, was only 251 square miles in extent, the population was nearly 58 to the square mile, and the ratepayers were mostly well-to-do. Again, Port Elizabeth had three tolls, or one to every ten miles of road, while Uitenhage had only seven tolls—or one to every eighty-three miles. Some of these latter were so unproductive that they had to be abandoned, while the former, being near a large centre, produced large revenues. And after taking all these points into consideration, we come to the point that galled the Uitenhage people more than anything. They had practically no interest in the roads they were forced to maintain under such adverse conditions, for of the 580 miles of road in the division 230 were main roads traversed almost exclusively by wagons to and from Port Elizabeth, by carriers who were not even ratepayers of Uitenhage ! What wonder then that there arose a strong agitation for the restoration of the subsidy of £480 which the Port Elizabeth Council had hitherto paid to the Uitenhage Council to assist in maintaining these roads ? But Port Elizabeth was stubborn in this matter, and absolutely refused to restore the subsidy.

The Rawson Bridge.

About two miles above the spot where the Zwartkops pours its flood into the sea there formerly stood a wooden viaduct named, after the Colonial Secretary under whose administration it was constructed—the Rawson Bridge. It did good service in its day. Half the materials of which the then frontier towns were built crossed it, and a great part of the permanent way of the North Eastern Railway passed over its work-worn deck. On New Year's Day, 1865, the Main Roads Act, which was said to be "part of the price paid to the Governor, Sir Philip Wodehouse, for flattering Grahamstown by holding Parliament in that city," came into operation, and the privilege of keeping all the main roads in repair was conferred upon the ratepayers or landowners of the Colony ; the control of them was removed from the Central Road Board, who were accused of spending all the revenue on the roads near the Metropolis, thus proving themselves to be very literally a Central Road Board to the local Divisional Councils. At that time the Government was hard up. Many efforts had been made to "strike oil" in new sources of taxation, but without success ; and under the advice of Mr. Rawson W. Rawson, to whom the old bridge was indebted for its being

and its name, the Grahamstown Parliament accepted the control of the Main Roads and the expense of that control, which by relieving Government of the burden gave it an equivalent to several thousand pounds per annum. This said Main Roads Act contained one clause under which the tolls paid to any ferry plying between two divisions were to be divided equally between the said two divisions. Rawson's Bridge connected the divisions of Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth, and the Divisional Council of Port Elizabeth, believing that the spirit, if not the letter, of the Act applied to bridges as well as to ferries, invited the Divisional Council of Uitenhage to take part with them in leasing the tolls of the said bridge, and for many years the revenues thus derived was equally divided between the two Councils.

A Law Suit.

This equable state of affairs continued until one of the Bay Councillors conceived the idea of questioning the right, under the Act, of Uitenhage's participating in the bridge revenue. An action at law followed, the Port Elizabeth Council being the plaintiffs. Surveyors were set to work. Old boundary proclamations were unearthed, and Mr. Justice Fitzpatrick, after a personal inspection of the bridge itself, decided that the whole of the structure was in the Uitenhage division, and, as the plaintiffs had so clearly proved that the ferry clause could not apply to a bridge, His Lordship hoisted them with their own petard by declaring the entire bridge revenue to be the exclusive property of Uitenhage!

Port Elizabeth Appeals Successfully.

At that time there was a superstition amongst Eastern litigants that an appeal to the Supreme Court against a decision given in a court of this province was pretty sure to be successful. Whether this idea was groundless or not, an appeal from Mr. Justice Fitzpatrick's judgment to the Supreme Court resulted in a total reversal of that judgment, and from then onwards Uitenhage ceased to have any share in the bridge beyond the liability to keep its Eastern approach—an expensive causeway—in order.

The Rawson Bridge Swept Away.

In this extremity the Uitenhage Council were compelled to erect another toll in their division near the bridge. Then came a tremendous flood—so tremendous, indeed, that the old worm-eaten piles snapped, and, "with an expiring groan like a cannonade," as the *Uitenhage Times* described it, "the old Rawson Bridge was swept, if not into eternity, into its emblem—the ocean." This was in 1874.

The Railway Bridge.

The Railway Bridge near this spot, however, was then nearly completed, and it was thought by some that as the railway would carry the majority of the traffic a pontoon might serve to carry the balance. But the Port Elizabeth Council, having more taxing resources and a smaller mileage of roads to maintain than any other division in the Eastern Province, had a large accumulated balance in the bank, and so, after paying the Uitenhage Council the compliment of inviting them to bear half the cost of a new bridge (which offer was of course declined) persistently importuned the Government, through Mr. Mackay, until they consented to reconstruct the bridge on the £ for £ principle. In other words, half the cost of the bridge was to be paid out of the general revenue and half out of the heavy balance of the Bay Council.

The Wylde Bridge Opened.

The result of all this was the splendid structure which was opened on Saturday, the 27th of September, 1879, and which was baptised with a bottle of champagne by its namesake and sponser (the then Magistrate of Port Elizabeth) "Wylde Bridge." The bridge is a fine iron structure 350 feet in length, and it stands on iron cylinder piers filled with concrete. The girders are of iron, and the deck of good, sound teak. It was designed in the Colony, and manufactured by Messrs Westwood, Bailey & Co., an eminent London firm of contractors. The piers are circular in form, and are so far apart that there is no fear of driftwood accumulating in any further floods, and so bearing against the structure. Moreover, the pillars are carried right down to the bed-rock, so that there is every hope of the bridge being able to resist any rush of water which may take place. The engineers in whose hands was placed the responsible operation of "floating" the massive girders into their places were Messrs. Greer & Jarvis. This was the first instance in which bridge girders had ever been floated into position in South Africa, and it was also the first time that an iron bridge had ever been designed in Cape Colony. The plans were drawn out by Mr. Greer. The total cost was about £8,000, to which sum the Government contributed £4,000. The opening function took place in fine weather, when there was a large attendance of the public present. The com-

pany included Messrs. Philpott (C.C. & R.M. of Uitenhage), R. E. Wright, C.E., Captain R. W. Smith (Secretary of the Divisional Council of Uitenhage), and Mr. Thornton, C.E. ; Mr. Wylde (C.C. of Port Elizabeth), the members of the Divisional Council of that place, Mr. Fforde (Chief Inspector of Public Works), Messrs. Geard, M.L.C., Paterson, Walker, Reid, and Mackay, M.L.A.'s, and many others. The baptismal bottle of "Monopole" was poured over the structure, and Mr. Wylde then said: In the name of the Divisional Council of Port Elizabeth I take over this bridge from the Public Works Department in full faith and trust that it is well and truly made. I declare it open, and I trust it may be conducive to traffic and generally advantageous to the trade of this and other divisions. Further, by the desire of the Divisional Council, I call this "The Wylde Bridge." The company having paced across the bridge then returned to the Beaconsfield Hotel, where a banquet was held.

The Cape Road.

In 1885 Mr. P. R. Heugh was appointed Secretary, and in the same year the Council took over a portion of the newly-constructed Cape Road, which had formerly been merely a sandy track. It was macadamised from the top of the Gamtoos River Heights to the western side of the Van Staaden's Pass. Government, however, re-constructed the road from Green Bushes to the eastern side of the Van Staaden's Pass at a later period, and the Council has maintained this road ever since at a cost of about £750 per annum.

Divisional Council Police.

This body was re-established in 1886, the staff consisting of a sergeant and six men, the former receiving £12 per month and each of the latter £10. Of this Government paid two-thirds and the Council one-third. The force in question continued to do excellent work until the establishment of the Cape Police.

The Town Roads.

The agreement which existed between the Divisional and Town Councils until this year with regard to the roads passing through the town was signed in September, 1886, and provided that certain portions should be placed under the care of the Divisional Council, while the street portions were left in the hands of the Municipality.

Grants.

The first grant made by the Divisional Council was in 1877, when the sum of £150 was voted toward tree-planting in Uitenhage, and was devoted to fencing the Jubilee Park. This was the forerunner of many grants, and assistance of a similar nature was given annually to the extent of £100.

In the same year the Council asked the Government to construct the unformed portion of the Cape Road, *i.e.*, from Van Staaden's Pass to Green Bushes. The Government acquiesced, and grants were made for this purpose from time to time. The road at present is one in which the hearts of cyclists delight, as may be proved by the numbers of the devotees to the wheel which use it on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The Uitenhage—Alexandria Boundary.

In April, 1887, the boundary between Alexandria and Uitenhage was altered, and this amounted to another slice of the Uitenhage division being cut off and given to Alexandria.

The Elands River Road.

This important thoroughfare was proclaimed a Divisional Road in 1900, and the resolution embodying the change added no less than seventy miles of road through difficult country to the cares with which the Divisional Council encumbered.

The Municipal Roads.

This year (1904) the Town Council broke the agreement with the Divisional Council with regard to the roads passing through the Municipality, and the result was that the Corporation took over the control of all roads within their jurisdiction. The Divisional Council came to the assistance of the Town Council, however, and generously made a grant of £300 per annum toward the cost of keeping those roads in a state of proper repair.

This brings to an end the history of the Divisional Council, and we may therefore fittingly conclude with a list of those who are still members of this body.

They are as follows: —Mr. E. J. Philpott (C.C. & R.M.), Chairman ; the Hon. J. F. Dolley, Dr. A. B. Vanes, M.L.A., Mr. T. W. Mills, M.L.A., Messrs. D. P. Marais, G. L. van Niekerk, J. C. Andrews, H. P. Matthews, Harcourt Salmon ; *Secretary*—Mr. Peter Heugh, J.P. ; *Road Inspector*—Mr. J. Rens.

MR P. R. HEUGH, J.P.

Mr. Peter Robert Heugh was born in Humansdorp, and is the son of the late Rev. W. F. Heugh, who was for many years minister of the Dutch Reformed Church there. Mr. Heugh was sent to the Proprietary School, of Uitenhage, when Mr. Templeton was the head-master. Many boys who distinguished themselves in after life were schoolmates of his, and amongst them may be mentioned Chief Justice Rose-Innes and Judge Lange Later, he was sent to Woodspeen School, in Newbury (Berkshire), where he remained for four years. On his return to the Colony he went to the Diamond Fields, but afterwards left the diggings and entered the Public Works Department, where he was clerk to Mr. Adam Smidt. In 1875 he became Inspector of Roads to the Uitenhage Divisional Council. This he held until 1880, when he went farming at Kabeljouws River. In April, 1885, however, he again returned to Uitenhage, and was appointed Secretary to the Divisional Council. He has filled this position since then, and his uniform courtesy has endeared him to all who have ever had anything to do with him, officially or otherwise. His beautiful farm "Kamaehs," on which is the far-famed "Hell's Gate," is still a favourite resort for picnickers, and we may state here without fear of contradiction that there are few men more thoroughly popular in Uitenhage than Mr. Peter Heugh.

Locusts. From what we can gather from an ancient diary that has been shown to us the district suffered from a veritable plague of locusts in 1836. The farmers were almost in despair, and all sorts of remedies were tried The most common was the digging of pits behind which sheets were stretched vertically. The pests were then driven into the trenches and buried. It is stated, too, that they made excellent manure, and thus they were turned to some account on the land they had laid waste.

The Accession of Queen Victoria. When the news of Queen Victoria's accession to the Throne of Great Britain arrived here the event was celebrated with every sign of loyal rejoicing. A public holiday was proclaimed, and a race meeting held, "every flag in the dorp being displayed," to quote the diary of an old Dutch resident who lived here at that time. A *feu-de-joie* and the singing of "God Save the Queen" brought the proceedings to a close.

Floods. The year 1838 was memorable for the floods which occurred all over the district. Great damage was done in many localities, and the roads were nearly all destroyed. More than one house was washed away, and there was some loss of life.

A Tiger in the Drostdy. The fauna of Uitenhage district includes many species of wild animals, but they are not nearly so numerous now as they were in the olden days. They were occasionally found within close proximity of the town in the forties, and on one occasion a large tiger made its appearance in the garden of the Drostdy. This was in 1843, and a letter describing the affair states that the intruder entered the poultry yard after dusk had fallen, and seized one of Colonel Cuyler's largest turkeys. The noise made by the terrified birds had the double effect of rousing the household and of scaring the animal away. He made his escape into the bush, and was not seen again until some days had elapsed. During this period, the children living in town were carefully kept out of harm's way, and many false alarms were raised. But the animal was traced at last and duly shot.

Education in the Olden Time. Uitenhage has always been a well-known educational centre, and its history as such dates back to 1823, when the first school in which the Government interested itself was established. This was known as "the school for persons of colour in Uitenhage," and was held in a Government building. In 1838 there were 39 boys and 42 girls in attendance. It was established by the Government in 1823, the object being to teach the children of slaves. It was only held twice a week at first. When in 1838 it was placed under the control of the clerk of the Dutch Reformed Church it was frequented by the children of the coloured classes generally, and in 1845 it had risen to the dignity of a day school, attended chiefly by the

children of emancipated slaves and Hottentots. English was used as the medium of instruction, and it appears that the majority of the scholars could speak fluently in both English and Dutch. The teacher received £57 10s. per annum and a house for his services. Later on the "Slave School," as it was called for many years, was re-christened the "Mission School." In 1850 it was known as the Dutch Reformed Church (coloured) school, and it is now better known as Rose Lane School. It used to be held in what is now Heeley's Building, but when this was required for other purposes a new school-house was built in Rose Lane, and there the establishment is carried on to this day, its history extending over a period of eighty-one years.

The Government School.

The next school to be started was what was known as the Free School, and on the 1st September, 1840, Mr. John Gibson was appointed headmaster at a salary of £200 per annum, together with £30 for house rent. His assistant was Mr. G. J. de Korte, who had been connected with scholastic matters since October, 1833. He was also sexton and bell-ringer of the Dutch Reformed Church. In that year (1840) the establishment was re-named the Government School, and in 1845 it was raised to the first class, and the number of pupils on the roll slowly but steadily increased. This school was the ancestor, so to speak, of the Muir College.

There appears to be an opinion prevalent that the teaching in those days was more of the "hedge-row" order, but this was not the case. A boy who attended the Government School in the forties could receive quite a respectable education. In 1844 the syllabus for the senior classes embraced Dutch and English grammar, the analysis and etymology of words, geography with the use of the globes, the properties of matter, the nature and influence of light and heat, the principles of mechanical science illustrated by models, the higher branches of arithmetic, and a course of reading in British, Roman, and Grecian history. The average attendance of pupils in this particular division of the curriculum during the year 1844 was forty-five. The Dutch language was taught in a separate house, and in connection with the English by means of translation ; but the whole of the school courses were taught in English.

About this time several private schools for girls were opened, that by the Misses Elliott, daughters of the Missionary of the London Mission Society being the most largely attended. This might almost be said to be the parent of the Riebeek College, for it attracted so large a number of girls that the Government School suffered considerably. The latter institution in 1855 only had 14 girls on its register.

It would be an impossible task to give the history of all the private schools that sprang up from time to time. Many of them appear to have flourished exceedingly, and they certainly served their purpose. To-day there are six large educational establishments in Uitenhage, the Muir College, the Riebeek College, the Dolley Memorial School, the Marist Bros. College, the Convent School, and the Industrial School, and they will be dealt with later on, as we come to the various periods of their establishment.

The Produce of the District. Uitenhage district is now more a pastoral than an agricultural one, but in the forties large quantities of cereals were produced. In 1844 there were 6,397 acres under crop, and the following are the returns published for that year : Wheat 12,000 bushels (average price 5 - per bushel), barley 24,000 bushels (2 - per bushel), oats 15,000 bushels (2 - per bushel), oathay 400,000 lbs. (4 6 per 100 lbs.), maize and millet 8,000 bushels (3 - per bushel), peas, beans, and lentils 400 bushels (7 6 per bushel), potatoes 2,500 bushels (3 - per bushel). Five thousand gallons of wine were made, and the average price was 90 - per legger of 152 gallons, *i.e.*, about 7½d. per gallon. Of brandy, 4,560 gallons were made, and the average price was £12 per legger of 152 gallons, *i.e.*, about 1 7 per gallon. So far as stock was concerned, there were 550 horses, 10,500 horned cattle, 46,000 sheep, and 20,000 goats in the district at the time mentioned, while out of a total of 2,009,721 acres of land 57,605 came under the head of pasture, 6,397 were in crop, and 1,945,719 were uncultivated A few more of the average prices realised in those days are interesting for the sake of comparison. Uitenhage heads the list for horned cattle, as 75 - a head was obtained practically throughout the year. In other districts 40 - and 45 - was all that these animals would fetch. Horses realised £12, sheep 9 -, goats 4 6, and swine 25 -. Fresh butter was 4d. per lb. and salt butter 10d. per lb. Wheaten bread 2d. per lb., beef 1½d., mutton 2d., pork 7d., coffee 9d., tea 4 6, sugar 6d., salt 2 6 per 200 lbs., and beer 7 6 per gallon.

Wages.

The cost of labour, of course, varies considerably from time to time, but in 1840 domestic servants in Uitenhage were paid 15 - per month, "predial" (land labourers) 20 - a month, and "trades" 5 - per diem. Domestic and predial labourers also received food and lodging in addition to the foregoing remuneration.

Manufactures.

Under this heading we find that in 1842 there were two hat factories in Uitenhage, a saddle factory, and two tanneries, while it is also gravely stated in the Government returns that the town possessed one wind mill, one water mill, a saw mill of 5 horse power near Port Elizabeth, a whale fishery at Port Elizabeth, one tile kiln near there and one at Uitenhage ; while there were several wind and water mills and tanneries in different parts of the division.

With regard to the whale fishery, it appears that only one of these leviathans was caught in Algoa Bay during 1842, and its value was put down at £150. On the St. Croix, Bird and Chuan Islands, lying east of Algoa Bay, 348 seals were killed during 1842. They were valued at £348, *i.e.*, £1 a piece. At this time, of course, Port Elizabeth was in the division of Uitenhage, as were also the islands named. St. Croix was let at an annual rental of £31 10s., and the two latter islands at £33 12s. 9d. per annum. They belonged to the Government, and were rented by a small syndicate interested in the seal fishery.

Exports in the Earlier Days.

While on the subject of produce, we may here take over a few extracts from the letter book of the firm of Heugh & Fleming, who did a general business in Uitenhage as far back as the early Twenties, as showing the marked difference in the conditions of trade 80 years ago and now. This book has but recently been placed at our disposal ; and when we remind our readers that the figures given below show the exports of but *one* of several such firms, and that to-day and for many years past the exports of these products from Uitenhage have been *nil*, the difference of these conditions will be the more remarkable. The letter book in question covers the period from January, 1825, to August, 1829, and comprises weekly letters of advice to the firm's agents in Cape Town, Messrs. A. Chiappini & Co., as to the various shipments of produce in the small sailing vessels that traded regularly along the coast in those days. We have gone carefully through the book, and quote below the various consignments of produce only when given in actual pounds. In many cases the shipments are given as so many casks of butter, tallow, &c. But these we have not included, as we have not been able to ascertain the weight of the casks of those days. So that the actual amount exported by Messrs. Heugh & Fleming alone would be considerably in excess of the figures given below.

	1825. lbs.	1826. lbs.	1827 lbs.	1828. lbs.	To Aug. 1829. lbs.	Total. lbs.
Butter ..	140,728	174,254	154,507	198,317	20,106	682,912
Tallow ..	748	24,564	117,187	30,818	5,362	78,679
Cheese ..	1,282	12,778	10,402	13,503	210	38,175
Aloes ..	4,660	756	3,347	95,541	—	104,304
Ivory ..	7,734	2,035	835	3,347	166	14,121
Gum ..	26,672	—	—	—	—	26,672
Soap ..	19,005	19,856	23,000	24,923	2,734	89,518
Candles ..	—	—	2,168	—	—	2,168

Besides the produce above named, Messrs. Heugh & Fleming exported 250 seal skins, the value of which is set down at £1 per skin, 5 cases Cape bulbs, many thousands of sheep and cattle, large quantities of salted beef, "mutton hams," hides, skins, wool, etc. One shipment is quoted as comprising 85 casks beef, 20 kegs tripe, 7 casks humps, 11 kegs tongues, and 5 shark skins at 2 6 each.

Part V.—The Decade, 1844-1853.

The Uitenhage Parks. The first "Park," or Public Gardens, in Uitenhage was situated between Market and Chase Streets, and appears to have extended from the site of the present Town Hall to Caledon Street.

In the year 1846 the Town Commissioners obtained from the Government of that day a grant of land for the purpose of forming a market place. This piece of land extended from the site of the present Railway Station to Caledon Street, and, as it was larger than the requirements of the market warranted, the upper portion was formed into a public garden known as "the park." There is some doubt as to the year when this garden was laid out, but it appears to have existed as such until about the year 1877.

In that year the town was incorporated as a Municipality, and among other changes that took place was the selling of the "Park" for building purposes. Then a move was made to the high ground on the east side of the town (to be known in after years as College Hill), and here was established the present public Park.

All who have visited the Park must have observed the grove of eucalyptus or blue gum trees: a curious history attaches to them. It appears that about the year 1870 the City Fathers became impressed with the idea that the supply of firewood was rapidly coming to an end. To provide against such a calamity they cleared a piece of land on the Hill (about four English acres) and planted it with Blue Gums! The alarm soon subsided, and the gum plantation became the nucleus of the present public Park.

Little progress, however, seems to have been made until the Council secured the services of an English gardener—Richard Horne—who became the first Park Curator or "Corporation Nurseryman and Park Superintendent," as the office was then styled. Mr. Horne held the post till his death in August, 1882. This worthy man was also an earnest worker in the cause of temperance, as a memorial in the Congregational Cemetry, erected by his friends, testifies.

He was succeeded as Park Curator by Mr. Robert Cruickshanks, who had charge till the end of July, 1881, when the present Curator (Mr. H. Fairey) took charge.

The management of the Uitenhage parks is entrusted to a Committee (elected annually) of the Town Council, and the late Mr. James Magennis was chairman of the body from its inception till his death in August, 1897. Under his fostering care, seconded by the able Scotch Curator, great progress was made and much useful work done both in the park itself and the town in general.

View in Magennis Park.

Previously tree planting had been carried on in the streets in a haphazard fashion; now it was done by the Town Council in a systematic manner. In 1886 the American institution of Arbor Day was

introduced. In June of that year a large number of trees were planted by school children on a portion of the commonage, south-east of the town. As an educational factor in tree planting it has proved a failure, but the plantation then formed and known as Victoria Park has considerably improved the appearance of that part of the town. The following year another addition was made to the Uitenhage parks. To commemorate the Jubilee of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, certain lands at the north-west of the town were enclosed, and at the Jubilee celebrations in June, 1887, a large number of trees were planted by school children and residents of the town. This park, known as the Jubilee Park, has not realised the anticipations formed of it in 1887, but has certainly proved a valuable object lesson in tree planting, and greatly beautified that part of the town.

In 1889 a considerable addition was made to the College Hill Park by the acquisition of several acres of land on the eastern side, and in the autumn of 1892 a large flower garden was laid out on the lower portion. Some three years later the building known as the Horticultural Hall was erected on a slope above the flower garden. Some very interesting and successful exhibitions have been held in it. In January, 1896, another strip of ground was acquired by the Council between the existing Park and the grounds of Riebeek College. On this ground are the lawns of the Park Croquet Club. The total extent of the park is now about 16 English acres.

In speaking of the Park as a whole it may be said that while it cannot vie with the older public parks and gardens of the Colony, it is nevertheless at all times interesting, both to the gardener and the botanist.

Amongst the trees, shrubs, and flowers will be found representatives from most parts of the world, while the flora of the Colony is represented by several species.

Nothing of a botanical or scientific nature is attempted, but new varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers are constantly being tried ; and while it may be said that the town of Uitenhage has a climate nearly sub-tropical, not only do the warm house plants of the British Islands thrive in the open air, but many of the native British plants and others from equally cold climates also bloom and flourish.

Thus may be seen the Deodar Cedar, from the Himalayan snow line, side by side with the English Elm, the British Oak, and the Pines from the shores of the Mediterranean, the "Goa Cedar" or Susitanian Cypress, and its relative from

SIDEWALK IN MAGENNIS PARK.

California, the Cupressus Macrocarpa. "Trees and flowers from many lands and varied climes" may truly be said of the denizens of the Uitenhage Park. Often has the question been asked, "What would Uitenhage be without its Springs?" The great boon of a bountiful supply of water is plainly manifest in the Uitenhage Park.

The Prison. So far back as 1846 the unsatisfactory state of the Uitenhage prison was repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government, but although considerably over half a century has elapsed since then the building is still in much the same condition as it was at that time. In 1846 J. Saunders was appointed gaoler, and he reports that "the building is ill-adapted for a prison, is insecure, and does not afford the means for a proper classification of the prisoners." He was succeeded by R. Walsh in 1851.

Population. In 1846 there were 4,748 whites and 6,460 natives in the division, giving a total population of 11,208—or about 1¼ to the square mile. Of these, 6,078 were employed in agriculture, 275 in manufactures, and 270 in commerce. There were 319 births, 129 marriages, and 101 deaths in the district that year.

The Postmaster. In 1846 a new postmaster was appointed to Uitenhage in the person of Mr. S. H. du Toit, and he certainly would appear to have been an experienced official, for he had already spent 36 years in the civil service. He received a salary of £200 per annum, but his duties also included those of Clerk to the Civil Commissioner. This latter may at first sight appear to be a strangely mixed appointment, but it was the custom in those days, and obtained in a large number of towns. The Port Elizabeth Post Office, however, was still in the hands of Mrs. Mary Biggar, who received £40 per annum.

The Post Office. In 1850 Mr. J. H. Tennant was appointed Postmaster of Uitenhage at a salary of £100, and he also acted as Clerk to the Civil Commissioner, Mr. J. C. Chase, who had been appointed C.C. & R.M. the previous year. Harriet Alcock succeeded him in 1853. In 1852 J. Capper was made deputy-postmaster at Sundays River at an annual salary of £10 10s., while G. Hawkins acted in a similar capacity in Humansdorp at £7 10s. per annum, R. Archibald at Gamtoos River at £15 per annum, W. T. Pullen at Addo Heights (£4 per annum), H. P. Meding at Jagersbosch (appointed in 1845 at £15 per annum), George Slater at Quagga's Flats (appointed 1851 at £15 per annum), while Mr. W. Metelerkamp was in the same year raised to the position of honorary postmaster of Zuurbron, without any salary, but with an allowance of 20 - per annum for stationery !

The Maitland Mines. From the earliest years of the century it has been known that lead was existent where the Maitland Mines are situate, but never at any time have the workings been of an extensive nature. Neither have the results ever been particularly encouraging Lead does exist, it is true, so does copper, but the quantities so far discovered are so small that it is doubtful whether a profitable industry will ever spring up in that part of the district. Samples of copper sent Home in 1853 were favourably reported on, but the supply was too small to be of much use. Companies have been started from time to time to exploit the mines, but none of them have yet proved successful as commercial speculations. A few hands are still employed there, and it is of course quite possible that one of these days ore may be found in payable quantities. Should such a discovery be made, it will undoubtedly prove of great value to the surrounding districts. Indeed as we go to press we hear of another syndicate having been formed in Port Elizabeth to exploit these mines, and it is the intention of the promoters to sink deep shafts and work on entirely different lines to those adopted by their predecessors. It goes without saying that the syndicate have the best wishes of all for their success.

Humansdorp. What is now the division of Humansdorp is the tract of coast country lying to the west of Gamtoos River, which is its eastern boundary, to Blaauw Krantz in T'Zitzikamma, the western boundary, some 110 miles in extent. At one time it of course formed part of the Uitenhage division, and was known as the parish of Alexander, so called after the Rev. Alexander Smith, the Dutch Reformed minister of Uitenhage, who periodically visited the place and held service in a building some seven miles from the present village of Humansdorp on the farm Geelhoutboom, which is to this day known as the "Kerk Plaats."

It was in the late forties that the farmers of the district commenced to agitate for a church and district of their own, as the inconvenience of having to travel to Uitenhage to pay taxes and for other purposes was severely felt. Complaints became more frequent as the population increased, but Government paid little heed to the grievances put forward. It was at this stage that the Dutch Church of Uitenhage came to the rescue and authorised their minister, the Rev. Alexander Smith, to pay two visits a year to the place, to hold Nachtmaal services at Kerk Plaats, then the property of Mr. Hermanus Potgieter.

In 1849, however, Mr. Matthys Gerhardus Human, of the farm Zeekoe River, offered 500 morgen of ground for a township and commonage as a free gift, if Government would undertake to have it surveyed. To this offer Government consented, and in 1853 the Government land surveyor, Mr. Elemans, of Uitenhage, surveyed 300 erven, half this ground having to be sold for the benefit of the church about to be established (two erven being reserved for Mr. Human) and the other half for the Government. A few months afterwards two-thirds of these erven were sold by Mr. William Metelerkamp, of Zuurbron. To this grant of land by Mr. Human was added a portion cut off from the farm now owned by Mr. Vosloo, and given by the late Mr. Jacobus du Plessis.

But before the idea of locating a village on the site now occupied by Humansdorp had been mooted, a place of business had already been established on the coast by the enterprising firm of Jeffrey & Glendinning. This part of St. Francis Bay was named Jeffrey's Bay after the senior partner, and it is on record that the place was visited several times by one of Mr. James Kemp's Port Elizabeth vessels. This was in 1849, and Jeffrey's Bay may therefore be looked upon as the "port" of Humansdorp district, as the ship would doubtless carry away with her a considerable quantity of produce.

Dutch Reformed Church, Humansdorp.

The town was named Humansdorp, and building operations were commenced as soon as the erven were sold, and among the first structures taken in hand were the Dutch Reformed Church and pastorage. Mr. Human, Mr. H. Potgieter, and Mr. H. J. Moolman, who at the time were elders of the church, were nominated as the building committee, and a lot of Cape boys were hired to quarry stone and make bricks and cart them to the site of the church. Two masons (James O'Driscoll and Scheel Dantje) were engaged to build the walls, and Mr. John Smith (grandfather of the late proprietor of the Farmers' Friend Hotel) and his son Henry were to do the woodwork and painting. The church was duly built, and opened in 1854. The building contained accommodation for 450 people, and the average attendance for the first few years is given at 110, the total number of parishioners being 2,000.

The first minister of the newly-erected church was the Rev. William Fleming Heugh, father of Messrs. Peter and William Heugh, now residing in Uitenhage. Mr. Heugh, who had but just completed his examinations for church work, accepted the call, and was ordained by the Rev. Alexander Smith in October, 1854, and continued his ministrations at Humansdorp with credit to himself and with benefit to the district up to within two or three years of his death, which took place in 1883.

Rev. W. F. Heugh.

Mr. Heugh was succeeded by he Rev. P. A. Groenewald, who in turn was succeeded in 1893 by the Rev. B. B. Keet. Mr. Keet died in 1904, when the Rev. J. D. Horak was appointed minister. In 1892 extensive alterations were made to the church, both inside and outside, whereby the edifice is not only capable of accommodating many more worshippers, but the general appearance of the structure has been vastly improved. A little later a new pastorage was built, adjoining the church.

Rev. J. D. Horak.

The Division of Humansdorp.

In 1859 Humansdorp was proclaimed a division, and on the 24th of January that year Mr. Charles Bayly Cox, barrister-at-law, was appointed Resident Magistrate, and Mr. P. E. Foulkes Clerk of the Peace.

The Divisional Council was established in the fifties. The late Mr. Roger Metelerkamp was appointed secretary, treasurer, and road inspector some ten years later, and these offices he continued to hold until his demise in 1899, when he was succeeded by Mr. J. L. M. Goedhals as secretary and treasurer.

Farming in the District.

A period of prosperity for the farmers set in in the early days, and this continued for some time. In 1861 forage was selling at £3 per hundred small bundles, and in 1863 the oat crops were unusually fine. There was a great deal of rust in the wheat, but the yield was considerably above the average, both in quantity and in quality. Many horses died of *nieuwe ziekte*, but stock was otherwise doing well. The Agricultural Society was doing splendid work in the district, and everything, according to the Magistrate's report, pointed to plenty of spirited competition at the next show. The previous year had been an exceptionally good one from a farmer's point of view, as meal had sold freely at 50/- a muid, forage realised from £2 to £2 5s per hundred bundles, meat was quoted at 7d. per lb., and bread fetched 6d per 1 lb. loaf!

Farming was therefore carried on with great success in the district until 1864, when a fearful drought set in, which lasted for a very considerable period. Humansdorp was once a large sheep farming district, but a farm which once carried its thousands of sheep will not now support its hundreds, and so the wool-growing industry that once enriched the district is now a memory of the past. There is no authentic reason given for the many diseases now prevalent among sheep and the impossibility of rearing them on farms on which they once bred freely, but many people account for it in the general impoverishment of the soil, consequent on the practice of grass-burning, which still obtains. Pastoral farming in Humansdorp is now limited to the breeding of cattle, horses, and ostriches, and a few sheep, whilst the agriculturists grow little beyond forage, which is exceptionally good in some parts.

In 1865 things had taken a decided turn for the worse, for we are told that it was the worst season known for years, as drought, scarcity of money, shortness of credit, and sickness in man and beast had been working injuriously against the farmer. At this time meal was selling at £2 10s. per muid, mealies at 20/-, and potatoes at 15/- to 18/-.

Matters gradually improved, however, and the year 1867 is described in the Civil Commissioner's report as the most favourable one for seven years. Cereals were sown largely, and forage, which sold the previous year at £3 to £4 per 100 bls., now only realised 10/- on the local market. Aquatic birds of every description, which had been long unknown in the district, now reappeared in large numbers on the formation of large sheets of water after the copious rains that had fallen. Sheep farmers at this period suffered considerably, in many cases losing a third of their flock from a new disease, which appeared to be water on the heart.

The Great Fire of 1869.

The older residents of Humansdorp still often talk of the immense and destructive veld fire which took place in 1869, and consumed in its course practically everything within its reach between T'Zitzikamma and Uitenhage. Many incidents have been related to us of human lives lost, homesteads burned, spans of oxen roasted whilst inspanned to wagons on the roads, and narrow escapes of individuals, many of which are doubtless true; but we do not care to record such incidents, as of most of them there are two or three versions.

It was on the 9th February, 1869, when the thermometer stood at 139 degrees in the sun, that the fire took place, and in the course of the day whole districts, including homesteads, crops, men, women, and children, cattle, sheep, and even game were consumed. As a matter of fact there must have been several fires occurring that day, as it seems incredible, although there was a fierce wind from the north-west blowing, that the flames of a conflagration with one origin could have travelled fast enough to devastate hundreds of square miles of country in a single day. And indeed this theory is borne out by the fact that 2,500 acres of forest and other property to the value of £22,500 in the districts of Knysna and Mossel Bay were destroyed on the same day; and as these districts lie to the west of T'Zitzikamma, it is plain that that fire was not a portion of the conflagration raging in the Humansdorp district, as the wind was blowing strongly from the north-west.

Various theories have been put forward as to

the origin of the various fires, but the most feasible one, to our mind, is that the exceptionally fierce rays of the sun that day, concentrating on pieces of broken glass lying in the grass, which in itself was so dry as to be particularly liable to ignition, converted the glass into what is known as burning glasses, and thus the fires originated. Mr. J. J. le Sueur, jun., the then Civil Commissioner of Humansdorp, in his report to Government on this great fire, adopted another theory. He says :—

> "A very wet season about the middle of 1868 had been succeeded by drought and great heat, which prevailed for some months before the fire occurred. The heat had prepared for instant ignition the grass, shrubs, and brushwood, then unusually plentiful, in consequence of the heavy rains that had preceded the dry weather. Veld-burning (that barbarous system, or want of system, of agriculture, as it has well been termed in a recent publication) had been going on for some time, and on a calm night bright dots and streaks and reflections in the sky marked the localities where it was being practised. The heat was most intense on the 9th February ; a scorching hot wind from the north, blowing like a sirocco, withered and dried up all that came within its influence. Everything, therefore, combined to make ready for combustion the plentiful grass and bushes, so that where there fell cinders or sparks (from the fires kindled to burn the veld), which a strong gale of wind bore along to an almost incredible distance, a new centre of flame instantly burst into destructive activity, and this, in its turn, gave origin to many others.
>
> "The loss of life in this district alone amounted to twenty. Of these four were Europeans and the rest natives. Of the Europeans three consisted of a mother with an infant in her arms and a child by her side, who fled before the fiery blast till they were overpowered, and then sank victims to the flames.
>
> "The damage to property was estimated at £16,374, exclusive of a portion of the Government forest calculated at £5,000."

The fire crossed the Gamtoos River and extended practically throughout the Uitenhage division, and close on to Port Elizabeth. We have not been able to find any record of the amount of damage done in the Uitenhage division, but it must have been very considerable, as one hears on all hands of homesteads, cattle, and crops having been destroyed, and if one could but get a properly authenticated list of the many hair-breadth escapes related to-day, of persons flying for their lives before the fast travelling flames, and eventually in many cases having to spend many hours up to their chins in water, either in rivers or in vleis, it would make most exciting reading.

The Great Floods.

The year 1869 was also the period of terrible floods throughout the midland districts, and the volume of water in the Gamtoos River had not been so great since 1847. The ferryman was obliged to desert his house and seek safety higher up the sloping banks. At Diep River the ford was impassible for 62 hours, and even then the post cart was only got across by attaching oxen to it and compelling them to swim. The rain continued to fall incessantly for five days, but the rainfall on this occasion is not recorded.

The Great Drought of 1873.

The Humansdorp district, in common with other divisions, particularly in the Eastern Province, suffered very severely during 1873 from drought, and wheat and other cereals commanded, where procurable, next to famine prices. A large number of famished cattle had to be removed to a large tract of country eastward of the T'Zitzikamma forests, bordering on the sea coast, where grazing was to be had. Sheep suffered to such a degree that in several instances the farmers were compelled to destroy the lambs in order to save the ewes.

Magisterial Changes.

Mr. J. J. le Sueur was appointed C.C. & R.M. in 1867, and held that office for about six years. He was succeeded by Mr. A. Smythe, who was appointed C.C. & R.M. on the 1st December, 1872.

Prosperity and Progress.

1875, however, was a more than usually prosperous year for farmers, both agricultural and pastoral. Tradesmen and mechanics had more work than they could attend to, and the demand for skilled workmen of all classes, as well as for labourers, was increasing.

At this time the Government was busy in the construction of the new main line of road at Kromme River, under the superintendence of Mr. A. G. Smidt, while the building of the lighthouse at St. Francis was also commenced.

The Wreck of the "Milford."

It was a very stormy year, for we read of a large ship (the *Milford*) having been totally

wrecked on T'Zitzikamma coast. The figure-head of the vessel still exists in Humansdorp in the grounds of "Milford House," the residence of Mrs. R. Metelerkamp. The captain and crew of this vessel abandoned the ship and took to the boats, landing safely at Kromme River mouth. About the same time a fishing boat, containing seven men, left Jeffrey's Bay for their usual day's fishing, and were never afterwards heard of.

The Lighthouse.

The lighthouse on Seal Point, Cape St. Francis, which had been started in November, 1875, was fast approaching completion at the end of 1877, and was opened in the following year. The tower is a massive stone structure, cylindrical in form, and stands 91 feet high, the keepers' quarters being at the base. It is fitted with a second order white holophotal light, revolving once in twenty seconds, and visible seventeen sea miles from the deck of a vessel fifteen feet above the level of the water. The cost amounted to £20,000, and the contractor was Mr. Benjamin Godfrey.

A Disastrous Year.

In Humansdorp district matters were just as bad as in Uitenhage in 1877. The Gamtoos River dried up entirely, and all irrigation was stopped. The Magistrate stated in his report that never before had the division experienced such a series of disasters as visited it in 1877. Fifty per cent. of the horses died from horse sickness, although it was an ascertained fact, according to the C.C. & R.M., that those which were strictly kept in the stables and prevented from eating grass escaped the disease. Then lung sickness set in amongst the cattle and carried them off in hundreds. As to the sheep, they succumbed by the thousand.

Notwithstanding the agricultural and pastoral disasters, the undenominational school which had been established made such rapid progress that in 1877 it was placed on a better footing by being raised to a first-class school, and a lady teacher was engaged as an assistant.

Establishment of a Newspaper and a Bank.

In July, 1878, the first newspaper ever published in Humansdorp was started by Messrs. Sellick & Muskett. It was called the *Echo*, but only lasted four years, when the *Re-Echo*, which still exists, was founded by Mr. W. S. J. Sellick. At the close of this year the Standard Bank of British South Africa opened a branch at Humansdorp. The first manager was Mr. W. Nicholls, and the branch is to-day a flourishing concern, under the management of Mr. Philip Ferreira.

The Great Ostrich Feather Boom.

Mr. T. R. M. Cole succeeded Mr. Smythe as C.C. & R.M on the 1st January, 1879. This year is notable for the extraordinary interest taken in ostrich breeding. Everybody who could command the purchase price of a pair of ostriches, and had a back yard in which to keep the birds, went in for the industry, and the consequence was that the supply was not equal to the demand, and prices rose to fabulous amounts, in some cases as much as £1,000 being paid for a single pair of birds. Two or three years afterwards the prices suddenly dropped to about £10 per pair. In the meantime, for the sake of the ostriches the farmers had neglected their more legitimate calling (sheep and cattle raising) with the result that hundreds of them were ruined.

Main Street, Humansdorp.

Owing to the sudden death of Mr. Cole, C.C. & R.M., Mr. J. W. H. Russouw was appointed Acting C.C. & R.M. on the 1st August, 1881, and in his report for this year Mr. Russouw said that the farmers appeared to be paying more attention to their stock than they had done for the previous three or four years, and that the interest in ostriches was declining owing to the low prices then obtain-

ing for feathers and the great mortality among chicks and young birds.

The Population of the District in 1882.

Mr. Alexander Bisset was appointed C.C. & R.M. in January, 1882. The census returns for 1875, published in the Blue Book for 1882, show the population of the district to have been 7,587, as against 7,876 in the year 1865. There were at this time 13,987 head of cattle in the district, with 133,000 sheep and 1,385 horses.

The Magistrates.

Mr. Alexander Bisset, C.C. & R.M., retired on pension, and was succeeded in 1885 by Mr. F. P. Pett, who in 1888 was removed to Cradock. In 1889 Mr. Arthur H. Garcia was appointed in his stead. Mr. Garcia held office until March, 1893, when he was transferred to Beaufort West, and subsequently to Uitenhage. His place in Humansdorp was filled by Mr. C. W. Andrews, who retained the position until November, 1901, when Mr. Ebenezer T. Anderson was appointed. The present magistrate is Mr. H. E. Marshall, who took office in 1904.

General Progress.

From 1885 the town and district have progressed slowly but surely. There have been seasons of prosperity and seasons of depression, but the general trend of events taken as a whole has been in the right direction.

Defence Forces.

The First Volunteer Rifle Corps was started in 1861. In times of war Humansdorp has always been among the foremost in sending her sons to the front, and there are many old residents there to-day who can remember the dispatch of the gallant "Tiger Troop" of the 3rd Yeomanry under the command of the late Captain Chiappini in 1879. They proceeded to Basutoland, where they took part in the attack on Morosi's Mountain, and where they suffered largely in the Quithing disaster. To this we have referred elsewhere in this volume; but we may state here that the monument erected in the Magennis Park, Uitenhage, to the memory of the fallen, bears upon it the names of the Humansdorp men who fell during that particular war. A year afterwards the "Tiger Troop" took part in he Basuto War.

When the Anglo-Boer War broke out in 1899 a mounted troop was raised in Humansdorp, and they gave an excellent account of themselves. The rebel forces invaded the district on more than one occasion, but although hotly pursued by flying columns and headed off by the Humansdorp District Mounted Troops, there was no actual fighting in the division. A strong Town Guard was also formed, and the trenches were manned several times when the Boers were reported to be in the neighbourhood. Humansdorp formed part of Area No. 4—an enormous tract of country which was under the Administrator whose headquarters was here.

The Municipality.

So much for war. In the piping times of peace the place was under the control of a Village Management Board, which was constituted on the 27th of November, 1896, and which consisted of Messrs. A. J. Saffery, S. van Onselen, and A. Deschamps. In 1899, however, an arrangement was entered into with the erfholders whereby the Village Management Board took over the whole of the commonage and other rights from the Dutch Reformed Church, on the payment of £850. The Municipality was established (in 1900) to give effect to the agreement with the Dutch Reformed Church, and this, the first Council, consisted of Messrs. A. J. Saffery, H. B. Siebert, H. M. Reynolds, Chas. Simmons, C. D. Baker, and I. Robinson. Mr. Saffery was elected Mayor, and has retained that position ever since. Certain erven were recently sold for £4,000, and with this money several much-needed improvements have been carried out.

The Buildings.

Amongst the more prominent buildings in the town are the Court-house and gaol, which were built in 1860, the total amount voted by Parliament for this work in 1859 being £1,700. With the Dutch Reformed Church we have already dealt.

The English Church is dedicated to St. Mark, and is a small but well appointed building, situated at the upper end of the town. Services were previously held in the Court Room by the Rev. Cyril Wyche, who was succeded by the Rev. G. Parnell. It was during the latter gentleman's incumbency that the present church was built.

The Milner Institute.

In former times the school was held in a hall adjoining the Dutch Reformed Church, but when sufficient funds had been raised the Milner Institute was erected, and it is now a first-class undenominational school. The headmaster is Mr. James Ogg, and he has three assistants. There are 100 pupils on the roll, the average attendance being 95.

The Library and Reading Room

is a new building with a good collection of volumes and a regular supply of the principal papers and magazines. This useful little institution was inaugurated in 1877.

The Park, Humansdorp.

This is one of the most pleasing features of Humansdorp, and is situated at the lower end of the town. It covers a square piece of land sixteen acres (English) in extent, and was originally started by the Divisional Council about 1865, both as a forest plantation and with a view to the encouragement of tree planting. In 1878 it was laid out as a public park, the design being drawn by Mr. W. A. Muskett, and when Humansdorp became a Municipality the Town Council took it over.

The walks are arranged in the form of the crosses on the Union Jack, and radiate from a common centre, where an ornamental fountain stands. Four broad carriage drives meet here, and four paths lead from hence to the corners of the enclosure. Both drives and paths are well kept, and are 25 feet and 16 feet wide respectively. For shady walks and noble trees Humansdorp has not many equals in Cape Colony. Amongst the many rare trees there are a number of species which are of divided sexes—some being males and some being females—the most notable being the Caroub, which is said to bear finer fruit, or at all events as fine as that grown in Asia Minor, the natural habitat of the tree. The edible brown pods are known by the name of "St. John's Bread" or "Locust Beans." Isolated trees of this species may sometimes be found in other public and private gardens, but being unmated they do not bear fruit. It has sometimes been said that the *Pinus Insignis* never reaches the age of twenty years in South Africa, but in the Humansdorp park are trees double that age, over eighty feet high, and bearing fertile seeds which produce self-sown trees by the thousand. Perhaps the most plentiful species in the park are Eucalypti and Blackwoods. The flower beds are bright and pretty, and there are also capital tennis courts and croquet lawns within the Park.

The Last Census.

The Census returns for Humansdorp in 1904 give the population of the district at 13,999, being 7,143 males and 6,856 females.

Jeffrey's Bay. As we have already mentioned what is now the village of Jeffrey's Bay was occupied before Humansdorp was in existence. Messrs. Jeffrey & Glendinning started a store there in 1849, and this became a convenient centre for farmers having produce to dispose of. It brought them within easier reach of the Port Elizabeth market, for a vessel used to pay periodical visits from Algoa Bay and return well laden with the products of the neighbourhood. Jeffrey's Bay—named after the senior partner of the firm—is thus to Humansdorp what Port Elizabeth is to Uitenhage, only on a much lesser scale. After Humansdorp was founded the fishing industry began to occupy the attention of some of the inhabitants, and this is still the main occupation in which the inhabitants of the tiny village are engaged. A fleet of fishing boats sails nearly every morning, and as a general rule they return with splendid hauls. For many years Jeffrey's Bay has been a favourite resort for picnics and camping out, the only drawback being the lack of accommodation. The old "White House" did duty in this direction for a long time, but it passed into the hands of Mr. J. W. Regnart some years ago, and it is now a commodious and comfortable family hotel. About a mile to the westward a new township named Ferreiratown has recently been established, where another large hotel has been erected by Mr. C. Papenfus, which leaves nothing to be desired by the most fastidious traveller. The advent of the railway—which passes within ten minutes' drive of Jeffrey's Bay, will make a considerable difference to the quiet little fishing village, and before long it will have become a popular and widely known health resort. The beach is all that can be desired, and bathing is as safe there as anywhere round the coast. Good fishing and sport are to be had, and as Humansdorp is within easy reach, the future of Jeffrey's Bay as the *resort* of holiday makers is assured.

Part VI.—The Decade, 1854–1863.

Farming Half a Century Ago. In the returns published by the Government for the year 1854, Uitenhage district comes second on the list with regard to the number of acres of waste or barren land, the figures given being 205,804 acres, Albert standing first with 390,654 acres and Swellendam third with 188,750. But the district could then show a very fair amount of cultivated ground, considering its dimension, and this is set down at 10,787 acres. Of these 4,468 acres were placed under wheat and produced 51,423 bushels at an average of 6 9 per bushel, while 772 acres of barley produced 10,558 bushels at 3 -, 3,294 acres of oats produced 55,298 bushels at 4 -, 1,200 acres of mealies produced 9,249 bushels at 5 -, 68 acres of peas and beans produced 764 bushels at 6 9, and 348 acres of potatoes produced 13,229 bushels at 4 . There were also 177 acres of vines, 399 of gardens, orchards and orangeries, and 61 under tobacco. Of oathay 2,746,410 lbs. were produced, 6,870 lbs. of dried fruits at 5½d. per lb., 25,300 lbs. of aloes at 3d. per lb., 84 pipes of wine (first quality) at £18 5s. 10d., although the average price throughout the rest of the Colony was only £18 11s. 1d., and 110 pipes of brandy at £14 16s. 5d.

Stock.

At this time, too, there were estimated to be in the district 1,524 horses for husbandry and other uses, and 1,020 for breeding purposes, 6 asses, 46 mules, 17,039 draught oxen, 31,898 "other cattle," 241,820 woolled sheep, 56,082 African sheep, 149,528 goats, 1,845 pigs.

Annual Productions.

The returns for this year also show that the annual productions were as follow :—Wool 337,495 lbs., butter 103,688 lbs., tallow 31,194 lbs., soap 16,055, 2,012 hides, and 30,958 skins.

Average Market Values.

The average market values of stock and produce half a century ago are interesting when judged by those which rule at the present day. They are given in round numbers as follow :— Saddle horses £18, draught horses £10, mules £12 15s., asses £27 10s., draught oxen £4, milch cows £4, woolled sheep 10 -, African sheep 8 -, swine 18 -, goats 8 6, fowls and ducks per pair 2 6, washed wool 1 - per lb., unwashed wool 6d. per lb., tallow 5d., soap 7d. per lb. ; hides 8 -, sheep skins 5d., and goat skins 1 11 each.

Wages.

At this period European farm overseers and head shepherds in Uitenhage were receiving £2 a month with board and lodging, and European cattle herds and shepherds £1 7s. ; European day day labourers were paid 2 3 per diem, while as domestic servants European males received £1 5s. 9d., females 13 4, coloured males 18 9, and coloured females 9 6 per month, with board and lodging. The monthly rent of a labourer's cottage and garden in Uitenhage was 15/6. These are the daily wages then paid to journeymen tradesmen (without food) : Carpenters and joiners (European) 7 2, coloured 5 7 ; masons and bricklayers (European) 5 7, coloured 5 - ; tailors and shoemakers (European) 6 -, coloured 5 9 ; smiths and wagon-builders (European) 9 3, coloured 7 10.

The Library. As will be seen from our article on the Town Hall, the plot of land upon which the old Library stood was sold, together with the building itself, and the proceeds (£375) devoted to the fund for the erection of the Town Hall. As a *quid pro quo*, the Council placed at the disposal of the Library Committee a room in the new building, and this was the one now occupied by the Market-master, on the right of the Market Street entrance. This arrangement continued until 1903, when on the opening of the handsome new library buildings in Caledon Street the Council paid back the £375 received in 1880 for the plot of land which had been sold in order to swell the Town Hall fund.

This library originally stood on the spot now occupied by the Criterion Hotel, and, as will be seen from the illustration given here, it was a most

THE OLD LIBRARY.

unpretentious little building. Among the donors to the shelves were Mr. J. C. Chase and the Rev. A. Smith, while the Porter bequest was of exceptionally handsome proportions. Between 1855 and 1882 £1,000 had been received in gifts, and in the latter year, when the change of quarters was effected, there were 2,000 volumes under the care of the librarian.

The inauguration of the new library and reading room in the Town Hall on the 15th August, 1882, was made the occasion of an interesting lecture on the

THE NEW LIBRARY.

subject of "Books and their Power" by Mr. John Tudhope, and for some time afterwards lectures were regularly delivered there by various townspeople.

From then onwards constant additions were made to the number of books, and in 1903 the new building was erected by Mr. A. Gillespie at a cost of about £1,500. The structure is plain and neat, the front portion being divided into four business offices, which bring in a substantial rental. The collection of works is of the most wide and varied nature, and the reference library is particularly complete. The number of books on the shelves at present are: Biography, 438; History, 453; Science and Art, 202; Religion, 131; Poetry and Drama, 163; Travel and Geography, 395; Miscellaneous, 361; Reference, 671; Fiction, 3,556; total, 6,370.

Alexandria.

The Alexandria Division was originally part of Uitenhage, but in 1855 a notice was published in the *Government Gazette* specifying "the boundaries of the proposed district of Oliphant's Hoek or Alexandria." In the following year it was separated from Uitenhage and created a Magistracy, the first official to occupy the bench being Mr. W. F. Liddle, formerly private secretary to the Governor, Sir George Grey. He was appointed Resident Magistrate on the 8th of January, 1856, at a salary of £300 per annum. Dr. Thom (appointed in June, 1859) was the first District Surgeon; Maria Deacon was appointed postmistress in 1858 at a salary of £35, and was succeeded in January, 1854, by J. L. Tilbury. The first chief constable was W. Deacon, the senior constable and interpreter W. Baker, formerly messenger to the Colonial Office, while there were also another constable and a gaoler. The lock-up was capable of holding twelve persons altogether.

In August, 1857, Mr. E. Philpott, who had entered the service in 1837, was appointed Resident Magistrate in the place of Mr. Liddle, and when Alexandria became an entirely separate division on the 7th of January, 1858, he was also appointed Civil Commissioner with an additional salary of £100 per annum.

THE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL,

or more correctly the Divisional Road Board, came into existence in the same year, and the first meeting was held on the 14th of October.

The early history of this portion of Old Uitenhage is not particularly interesting. The first

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH

was built there in 1833 or 1834, but it was burned down during the Kafir war of 1835. In 1854 it was re-established under the name of Oliphant's Hoek, and the minister consulent—the Rev. Dr. Adrian Roux, of Riebeek, and subsequently of Albany—visited the parish once every three months.

for the purpose of attending to the spiritual needs of the people. For this he received £37 10s. per annum from Government, while his parishioners, who numbered 900, contributed between £60 and £70 a year.

The church held 220 people, and the average attendance at the principal services was estimated at the same number. The collections for 1857 amounted to £128, and the pew rents to £84.

The Village.

Round the new church the village slowly grew, but it may be said to date its legal existence as such from the 15th of September, 1856, when a proclamation was issued by Sir George Grey defining its limits and its boundaries. The name of Oliphant's Hoek it always bracketed with that of Alexandria in the old records, but the latter gradually ousted the former appellation until it was at length accepted altogether.

The Prison.

The new prison was started in 1859, and was a much more substantial structure than the little lock-up which had done duty before. It was not completed until 1860, when nearly £1,500 had been expended on it.

Drought.

In 1861 the district suffered from a drought more severe than the oldest inhabitants could remember. The consequences were disastrous, for not one-third of even an average crop was reaped. In many cases where the farmers had been able to plough they had not reaped one single grain, and the cattle had to be allowed to graze in the cultivated lands.

Mr. Philpott remained there until February, 1866, when he was promoted to Cradock and subsequently to Uitenhage, his place on the Alexandria bench being taken by Mr. C. W. Southey, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. J. W. Honey. This official in 1869 reported that a chapel for the coloured people was being built and would shortly be completed. He also stated that a large and powerful windmill, costing between £700 and £800, was being erected, and "would add greatly to the appearance of the village when looked at from one side." A steam mill had already been in operation since the early fifties, and was capable of grinding fifty muids a day. A second steam mill was put up some time later, and all three did a considerable amount of work. There was also a tannery in the village.

The Rev. J. Roos.

For years and years the want of a resident clergyman had been acutely felt in Alexandria, for the people were entirely dependent upon the quarterly visits of the Rev. Dr. Roux, of Riebeek, which was at least fifty miles distant. Several attempts had been made to raise funds for the support of a clergyman, and many of the farmers subscribed liberally towards an endowment, but every attempt failed. It was not until the 16th of September, 1869, that the congregation had their long-cherished hope of obtaining a resident minister fulfilled. The Rev. J. Roos was appointed at a stipend of £250, together with a parsonage. He remained there for many years, and accomplished much good work amongst his parishioners.

The Rev. A. W. Copeman had established Christ Church in Alexandria prior to this, and he continued to minister there until his death. Further reference to him will be found in our article on St. Katharine's Church.

Education.

Education in Alexandria was long in a most backward and unsatisfactory condition, for the people were as apathetic in this direction as they were in nearly every other. A second-class school (State-aided) was started at length, and, under Mr. Shaw, gave considerable satisfaction. A district school was opened by Mr. J. Marriott in 1863, there being 21 pupils on the roll, and in the same year a mission school was opened by E. M. Burness with 19 scholars; but neither of these institutions were very successful.

Cotton Growing.

Cotton of a very superior quality was grown in 1863 on the farm Bookanes, near the mouth of the Bushman's River. Reporting on this to the Government, the Magistrate remarked that there was no doubt cotton could be cultivated with great success in the valley near the coast, and the farmers were only deterred from making the experiment by reason of the scarcity of labour.

General.

Alexandria cannot be said to be a progressive town by any manner of means. Although only 70 miles from Port Elizabeth, it is out of the world, so to speak, and it does not appear as if there were a future before it—in the ordinary course of events. In such a place events move very slowly, and there is practically nothing of general interest for the historian to record. Drought and deluge, disaster

and disease, prosperity and adversity follow one another there as in other divisions, but little is ever heard of them, and thus years pass by with but few occurrences out of the ordinary routine to mark them.

District Surgeon

Dr. W. McMaster was appointed District Surgeon of Uitenhage in April, 1855, at a salary of £75 per annum, with the right of private practice. He was succeeded by Dr. W. Sutherland in 1872, and after his death Dr. R. G. Lamb was appointed on the 9th of August, 1875, and has retained the position ever since.

Woolwashing in Uitenhage.

The industry of woolwashing was established in Uitenhage in the year 1858, and has been the means, together with the railway works and market gardening, of ensuring the prosperity of the town. In the early days Messrs Uppleby & Co. began a business on the site of the present Union Works, with Mr. B. Harvey as manager, followed by Messrs. Heugh & Fleming, afterwards F. & P. Lange, Mr. Gubb (succeeded by his son Mr. T. W. Gubb), and Messrs. Robertshaw, Stratford, Niven, Inggs, Spence, Skinner, Butler, Grewar, Clark, &c.

WOOLWASHERY IN UITENHAGE.

In the year 1866 the Springfield Woolwashing Company started under the late Mr. H. W. Inggs, and was carried on successfully for many years. In the year 1873 this company purchased the Union Works, and subsequently built a new works at Despatch. In 1882 Mr. Inggs severed his connection with the Springfield Company and established a business at Kruis River, which he conducted until his death in 1892, when he was succeeded by his son, Mr. Herbert Inggs.

The price charged for washing in 1858 was a half-penny per lb. In 1868 there were eight establishments on the banks of Zwartkops, and three of them were worked by steam power. They afforded employment for a large number of labourers of both sexes, at an average rate of wages of 2s. per day. The greatest portion, or nearly all of it, was native labour, and the money earned by these people in the season was about £630 per week, but it did not benefit the town as it would have done if paid to Europeans, as the natives mostly came from Kaffraria in parties of eight or ten, spent as little of their earnings as possible, and hoarded the greatest portion to purchase cattle and return to their own native country.

In 1873 there were nine establishments in the town, all of them in constant work night and day. They were worked by steam power, and extensive improvements and enlargements to the machinery were constantly being made. All maintained their high reputation for washing wool with cleaner and better results than were achieved in any other part of the Colony. In 1872 there were only seven in operation, but in 1874 the number of establishments had grown to ten, and were still doing well, finding constant employment for several hundred male and female labourers at high wages. There were, at one period, eleven woolwashing businesses on the banks of the Zwartkops River, extending for a distance of nine miles.

At present there are only three interests with five woolwashes. These are Messrs. Gubb & Inggs, who have amalgamated the businesses of Messrs. Gubb, Inggs, and the Springfield Company, and Messrs. C. Robertshaw and A. C. Schady.

The reasons why six out of eleven woolwashes have closed down are not difficult to understand. Woolwashing is a process requiring considerable knowledge and skill. A delicate fibre requires careful handling in order to prevent damage which would render it unfit for the subsequent process of

manufacture. While improvements were being made in England and on the Continent, the local washers were content to continue with the crude methods then in use. On the introduction of the Scab Act much difficulty was caused in washing by the effect of the dips on the fleeces, and the result was that the method in use was unsuitable to the new conditions. The increased cost and the low rates charged owing to competition rendered the business unprofitable. The result was that one after the other closed down and the industry was threatened with extinction The industry can be revived by the introduction of scientific methods of treating the wool, by which the product can be made more acceptable to the buyers. The industry is of considerable value to the Colony, and should receive all possible assistance from the Government. The importation of soaps, duty free, is the only assistance given at present, and although the washers have been grateful for this privilege, it is thought that more could be done to foster the industry until it is again fairly established.

A short account of the method of washing may be of interest. In the early days the wool was opened out from the bales and steeped in cold water in a wooden trough. The natives then washed the wool about with their feet, after which it was taken to the drying floors and dried by the natural warmth of our climate. An improvement was made by having two baths, one hot and one cold. The fleeces being innocent of sheep dip, a fair result was obtained. The natives sometimes objected to working in the cold water in a half nude condition, so mechanical means were sought. The introduction of a rotary washer worked by steam power, the invention of which is attributed to the late Mr. Niven, and the use of tanks in which the wool was forked by hand, was the next improvement.

A local firm sent its representative to Verviers and imported the first set of machinery. This was known as the "Leviathan," and was extensively copied, but, strange to relate, the essential device was omitted, owing to the difficulty of making it locally. About 1890 three sets of machines were imported from Rochdale, but were not efficiently used. Messrs. Gubb & Inggs have these machines in use, and have adopted the latest methods of washing. In reviewing the past history of this industry it appears that true competition should be in improved methods to enable a superior article to be produced at a lesser cost if possible.

The Post Office

In 1862 J. Isbell was appointed Postmaster at a salary of £50 per annum, with £12 for free delivery of letters. He continued to hold office until 1874, when he died and was succeeded by his wife, Mrs. E. A. Isbell, who received £90 per annum, together with an additional £50 as officer in charge of the telegraph station. In 1875 C. Duk was made deputy postmaster at the Railway Station, for which he was paid £12 per annum, in addition to the £230 he received as Stationmaster. Mrs. Isbell died at a ripe old age in 1905.

Volunteer Cavalry Corps

Reporting to the Government in 1863, the Magistrate stated that the Volunteer Cavalry Corps was still kept up with much spirit, and the appearance of the men on occasion of the visit of the Governor to Port Elizabeth that year had called forth His Excellency's highest commendation.

Jansenville.

The district of Jansenville is the north-east part of the division of Uitenhage, and includes a narrow strip of Somerset East. It was formed into a district in September, 1874, and comprised twelve freehold farms, in extent 15,947 morgen; 118 quitrent, 297,563 morgen; 31 pieces of land leased under Act 19 of 1864, in extent 23,827 morgen, and 29 pieces of Crown land, leased annually, in extent 97,370 morgen, making an area of about 1,500 square miles. The northern part is open country, intersected by ranges of low hills; the flats are covered with karroo and vygeboschjes, in good seasons mixed with grass, towards Jansenville interspersed with norse and bush. The hills are clothed with spekboom and other nourishing trees and shrubs. Sheepfarming is carried on with success in this part. The country towards the west, the Zwart Ruggens, is flat, slightly undulating, covered with wild pomegranate and a valuable plant called vingerpol, and, in good seasons, grass. The veld is eminently adapted for all kinds of small stock, Angora goats especially. The southern boundary is the Zuurberg range, where the country is very rugged and only fit for cattle and goats. The boundary on the east is the Riet and Sundays Rivers. This is a cattle country, but best adapted for the Cape goat.

FARMING.

The fathers of sheepfarming in the Jansenville district may be said to be Messrs. Hobson, Biggs, and Nash. Their farms adjoin, and make a most

extensive sheep walk, and they were originally the property of the late W. E. Hobson and D. Hobson, who, by their remarkable enterprise, gave considerable impetus to this pursuit. In the seventies Messrs. A. C. Stewart & Co. were perhaps the largest breeders of Angora goats, and under the management of Mr. Featherstone the Angora and ostrich industries were conducted on a large scale on the extensive tracts of land owned by this firm in the neighbourhood of the Zuurberg. This estate was some 40,000 acres in extent, and Mr. Featherstone was one of the most energetic and enterprising farmers in the province. In 1881 it was proposed to form a company to secure the estate, with the stock, and to carry on general and stock farming, but owing to an insufficient number of shares being taken the project fell through.

For some years, indeed, ostrich farming was carried on very successfully in the Jansenville district, parts of which are eminently adapted for the rearing of this bird. Up to 1862 large numbers ran wild in the Zwart Ruggens, and some were still to be found there in the seventies.

Agriculture.

The banks of the Sundays River, along its whole course, are of beautiful alluvial soil, and in the year the district was founded some very heavy crops were reaped. The produce on one farm alone was 600 muids, while the crop of forage was 30,000 bundles.

Vineyards.

In former years the vine was extensively cultivated, and wine and brandy made. Through the oidium and scarcity of labour the vineyards were allowed to go into decay; but the industry may be revived, for the yields were good and the flavour of the grape delicious. In the seventies there were a number of orchards along the river, but they were neglected, and little fruit was dried for sale.

The Country of the Lakes.

When the late Mr. Hobson settled in the district in 1836 he commenced a series of dams upon the most approved principles. The one at Ebenezer was so large that an extensive piece of land was irrigated from it in the driest seasons. "His praiseworthy example," says one writer in 1874, "was so generally followed that the arid Karroo may now be described as the country of the lakes. Mr. Featherstone has constructed seven, which hold water for his numerous flocks all the year round. Several of these inland lakes have been made for irrigation."

Prickly Pear.

So far back as 1873 the Magistrate called attention to the fact that the prickly pear was taking in considerable tracts of country to the south of Jansenville, but that on the north Messrs. Hobson deserved great praise for their strenuous and successful efforts to eradicate it.

Lime and Stone.

Limestone abounds in several parts, and very good lime is made. A quarry of excellent building stone was opened for the bridge.

The Town.

The town of Jansenville stands on part of the farm Vergenoeg, which was originally granted to one Prinsloo in the time of Lord Charles Somerset. He sold it to a Mr. Schut, and it passed in succession into the hands of J. Vivier and then into those of John Alberts. The last-named sold half of the farm to his brother-in-law, Mr. Petrus Jacobus Fourie, senior, and some time afterwards Mr Alberts sold the remaining portion to the same gentleman. Mr. Alberts then went to the Free State, and was soon followed thither by Mr. P. J. Fourie, who joined the trekkers, leaving his sons on the farm. They and their descendants are still resident there.

The Rev. A. Smith, of Uitenhage, used to visit this part of the country at stated intervals, and in 1855 he persuaded Mr Fourie, who was now owner of Vergenoeg, to sell half of the farm for the establishment of a village. This was agreed to, and the rev. gentleman at once proceeded to form a separate congregation. Mr. Robert Pinchin was meanwhile engaged by Mr. Fourie to survey the half of the farm and to divide it up. Eighty-four erven were laid out, and these were publicly sold by Mr. Stephanus van Kervel du Toit, a Uitenhage auctioneer. The new village was then named Jansenville, after the last of the Dutch Governors.

The Kerkplaats.

Most South African towns evolve from a kerkplaats to a dorp, but this was not the case with Jansenville, for even after it had been proclaimed a village the church was held at the farm Vergenoeg, adjoining the town, and upon which the Fourie family resided and has resided ever since. The old building used as a church is still standing, and after serving as a school room now does duty as a farm shed.

The D. R. Church.

The congregation having been formed, Mr. Smith visited Jansenville every three months and administered the sacrament. Services also were held at various centres, such as Draaihoek, Blaauwkrantz, Vaalfontein, etc. The parishioners numbered 1,150, of whom 450 were enrolled members of the Church. Forty-one children were baptised in 1855.

In 1863 the Rev. William Fleming Heugh, of Humansdorp, was appointed Minister-Consulent, and he was succeeded as such by the Rev. C. T. Muller, of Pearston. Shortly afterwards the first residential minister, the Rev. Mr. Muller, was appointed. Mr. Muller died in 1878, and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Kriel, who came from Lydenburg, Transvaal. He, however, only lived until 1881, and an interregnum of two years occurred. In 1883 the Rev. Johannes Abraham Joubert was appointed, and during his time the new Dutch Reformed Church was built. In this work the late reverend gentleman interested himself very actively, and it was mostly through his efforts that the building was erected. The cost amounted to £7,000, and this sum was paid in cash when the structure was completed. The architect was Mr. Hager, but his plans were modified by Mr. Reid, a Port Elizabeth architect. The contractors were Messrs. Grant & Downie, of Uitenhage.

D R Church Jansenville.

The congregation numbers 3,000 at present. On the 27th of August, 1894—a day that will long live in the memories of the inhabitants of Jansenville, the pastor who had rendered such splendid service to the town and district passed away, and the general sadness was deepened when it also became known that the chief Elder of the Church—Mr. Stephanus McKay—had entered into rest about the same time. The two coffins were carried into the church together, and the remains were afterwards interred amidst every sign of heartfelt sorrow and grief.

In 1895 the Rev. N. Brummer, M.A., was appointed in Mr. Joubert's stead, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Burger.

St. Saviour's Church.

Prior to 1896 Jansenville was visited once a year by the Rector of St. Katharine's Church, and services were then held in the Court House. In that year, however, the Rev. W. Carre was appointed minister, and he continued to officiate until 1898, when the Rev. Alfred Long arrived from England and took over from Mr. Carre. This gentleman accomplished an enormous amount of good work, and one of his first actions was to get Jansenville and Steytlerville separated from the parish of Uitenhage and formed into a separate parish. He then set about raising funds for the erection of a church, and in this direction his energy was indefatigable. He procured money from the people of those towns, and by an ingenious scheme of descriptive letter writing he managed to raise quite a respectable sum from his old congregation in Shepherd's Bush, London. The church was erected in an incredibly short time, at a cost of £800. It is built of stone, has a red tiled roof, and seats about 100 people. The architect was Mr. White-Cooper. During Mr. Long's four years' sojourn he managed to build no less than three other churches—one at Steytlerville, one at Klipplaat, and a native church at Jansenville. He returned to England in 1904, and was succeeded by the Rev. Thornley Jones, who is still ministering there. The surpliced choir at St. Saviour's, Jansenville, dates from the arrival of Mr. Long. The church was dedicated by the Venerable Archdeacon Llewellyn.

Wesleyan Church.

The Wesleyan Church, Jansenville, which was erected in the year 1898, at a cost of £850, is a handsome and commodious structure, and capable of seating some 200 people. Its first minister was the Rev. Stephen K. Saunders, a very able and devoted man, who was compelled through ill-health to give up his charge after but a short tenure of office. The present incumbent is the Rev. Austen S. Rogers, who is doing good work both in town and district. The circuit includes Mount Stewart, where a pretty little church was erected in February, 1905, and Steytlerville, together with Barroe and Wolvefontein, at which places services are held

monthly. The Jansenville circuit is under the superintendency of the Rev. J. W. Housham, of Uitenhage.

Magisterial.

The first Magistrate of Jansenville was Mr. W. W. Maskew, who was appointed in 1875. He found the village in a very backward state, and this was owing to several circumstances. The chief was the lawlessness of former times, the absence of permanent water, and the main road not passing through the place. The first of these causes was speedily removed, every attempt was made to remove the second, and the third was removed by the completion of the bridge over the Sundays River. The main road then led through the village, and sometimes as many as a hundred wagons per week passed and re-passed through the streets.

Mr. Maskew seems to have been imbued with a sincere desire to further the interests of the village in every possible way, and he earned the gratitude of the inhabitants by having their streets made for them by convict labour. Gravelling was also done by the prisoners—of whom there were no less than 279 sentenced during the first year of the Magistracy. He also had three wells dug, one of which was filled in again later on, and on these the villagers depended for their domestic water supply. They are still in existence, although they are not now in use. Mr. Maskew also attended to the bridging of the sluits, but there is much to be done in this direction by the Town Council of today, some of these furrows being dangerous to life and limb. Several serious accidents have already occurred. It was during this official's *regime*, too, that the Sundays River Bridge was opened, and he himself christened it. Mr. Maskew was transferred to Middelburg after he had been in Jansenville for about a year, and he was succeeded by Messrs. Smuts, Ford, and Watson. The last-named gentleman was appointed in September, 1875, and he remained there for no less than sixteen years. He accomplished a very large amount of useful work, and served the public well from the very beginning of his lengthy term of office. Mr. Watson retired from the service in 1899, and is now living in Uitenhage. The succeeding Magistrates of Jansenville were Mr. A Gill, appointed in 1891 ; Mr. L. Neethling, appointed in 1893 ; Mr. G. H. B. Shaw, 1899 ; and Mr. D. D. Leslie, 1904.

Fruit Growing.

Jansenville was reported by the Uitenhage Magistrate in 1872 to be producing fruit unsurpassed by any in the Colony, and also grain of a superior quality. The Midland Conveyance Company's wagons, then passing weekly through Jansenville on their way to Port Elizabeth and Graaff-Reinet, offered the inhabitants an opportunity of sending their magnificent fruit to the Bay market, where it was always in large demand.

The Bridge.

We have already given a full account of the fine bridge which spans the Sundays River at Jansenville, and this will be found incorporated in the history of the Uitenhage Divisional Council.

Jansenville Bridge.

The Public Offices.

The old Court House still exists, and although it may at one time have appeared to be an ornament to the town, it certainly cannot be compared with the offices in which all public works are now carried on, including that of the postal and telegraphic department. This pile of buildings was erected in 1895, the contractor being Mr. A. Gillespie, of Uitenhage.

Public Offices, Jansenville

The Town Council.

The Municipality was established on the 15th of April, 1875, the first Council consisting of Messrs. G. M. J. Slabbert (Mayor), J. Nel, W. Byus, L. Fourie, and J. Fourie. Mr. R. J. P. Slabbert has been Town Clerk since 1892.

The present Council consists of Messrs. J. J. Scheepers (Mayor), H. M. Sadler, D. J. Orsmond, J. Frankel, A. McLoughlin, and J. Nieuwhoudt.

The Fiscal Division.

Under the provisions of Act No. 36 of 1879, Jansenville was created a fiscal division from the 1st of January, 1880. Its area was roughly estimated at 2,500 square miles; there were 121 quit-rent farms bringing in a yearly revenue of £936, 45 Crown Land lots yielding £2,211, and nineteen lots of unsurveyed Crown Land leased for short periods for the sum ot £290 yearly. The income from these sources therefore amounted to £3,437 per annum. The value of landed property within the division, assessed in 1880 for Divisional Council purposes, amounted to £240,228. No Divisional Council was then in existence, and the division for such purposes still belonged to or formed part of the division of Uitenhage. The roads were then in a miserable state, with the exception of the one to Mount Stewart railway station.

The Divisional Council.

The Jansenville division was divided into six wards by proclamation dated 1st August, 1881, and the first Divisional Councillors were Messrs. J. H. Cawood, G. B. Hobson, D. E. Hobson, H. Nash, O. J. Fourie, G. M. J. Slabbert, and J. Birch, Mr. J. J. Watson, C.C. & R.M., being Chairman. The first meeting was held on the 5th of October, 1881. The value of property on which the first rate was assessed was £250,251, and the rate was ½d. in the £.

The present members of the Council are Messrs. D. C. J. Lotter, M.L.A., J. A. van Eeden, A. J. Fourie, E. F. Gouws, I. B. Ferreira, and W. H. Berrington, with Mr. J. D. Leslie, C.C., Chairman.

The present valuation is £337,430, which is very low, and the rate is still ½d. in the £.

The Town Hall.

The new Town Hall was completed in 1905 at a cost of £1,350. It is a handsome and commodious building, and one that is in every way a credit and an ornament to the town.

Town Hall, Jansenville.

General Progress.

The town of Jansenville has doubled in size during the past ten years, and the valuation for 1905 was £75,695—an increase in four years of £15,000.

Part VII.—The Decade, 1864–1873.

The Uitenhage Times.

The year 1864 is memorable in that in that year the first newspaper was published in Uitenhage by the late Mr. Henry Bidwell, and that paper (the *Uitenhage Times*) exists to-day, after a successful career of over 40 years. It is not so much on account of the journal that this article finds a place here, but the work would be incomplete without some record of its founder, who was one of the most progressive and public-spirited men Uitenhage has ever owned as a resident.

Of the paper itself little need be said. It has always been published in the interests of Progress, and most of our readers are acquainted with its career, how in the course of its evolution it has changed by degrees from the smallest of sheets to one of the largest published within the Colony, and its price has similarly been reduced by degrees from 6d. to 1d. It is a bi-weekly paper, and now owned by Mr. W. S. J. Sellick, who acquired it from Mr. Bidwell on the 1st January, 1893.

Henry William Bidwell.

Mr. Bidwell was born at Norwich in 1830, and left his home at the early age of 9 years to seek his own fortune. He drifted to London and entered a printing establishment, where he took a keen interest in lithography, in which art he made some discovery of importance in the production of fine work, and this discovery "put him on his feet." He then went in for private study, and in 1862 came to this country as sub-editor of the *Journal*, of Grahamstown. The following year he came to Uitenhage, and shortly afterwards started the *Uitenhage Times*.

During the 36 years of Mr. Bidwell's residence in Uitenhage he not only worked hard for the public welfare, but in private life he was looked upon as a true benefactor in many instances, and nothing would please him better than an opportunity to push on some boy or girl in the study of music, of which he was passionately fond.

Mr. Bidwell represented the Uitenhage division in the House of Assembly in 1873, when he was appointed official shorthand writer to the Committees of the House, which post he retained for about 20 years, when he retired on pension. In 1893 he again contested the Uitenhage seat with Mr. John Mackay as a colleague, but the Bond interest was too strong for him, and he was unsuccessful.

Mr. Henry William Bidwell.

Coming to local matters, he became a member of the old Board of Commissioners, and was elected to the Town Council in 1882, and retained his seat until his death in 1899, and, but for a defect in his hearing, would on many occasions have been elected to the Mayoral chair; and it can be truly said that never, before or since, has there been a Councillor of Uitenhage who has had the welfare of the town at heart more than Mr. Bidwell, or one who has done more for the public. As a member of the Divisional Council he also did good work, whilst one of his greatest delights was to actively interest himself in education, and he was a member of each of the boards of management of the various local public schools.

As a journalist Mr. Bidwell had few equals in the Colony, and he was not unknown as a novelist and poet, for several novels and poems bearing his name as the author have been published and appreciated. What we have often wondered at is that the name of such a local benefactor has not been handed down to posterity by the authorities in the way that many less popular men have been, by the naming of one of the principal streets after him.

The Van Staadens River Pass. In November, 1867, the Van Staadens River Pass was destroyed by the great floods which then took place, only a few months after the thoroughfare had been handed over to the Divisional Council. The culverts and retaining walls were completely destroyed, and it was not within the means of the Council to undertake so extensive a work as the repair of the damage.

Silk Culture In the late sixties the Government attempted to induce farmers and others to take up the culture of silk, but the scheme was not followed with successful results. Cuttings and seed of the white mulberry were sent to the Magistrate, and these were distributed among the farmers as much as possible; but there were very few applications made for them, and the idea never found favour among the people. In Uitenhage more than one determined effort was made to start the industry, but none of them came to anything. Many of the mulberry trees planted at that time, however, are still in existence.

A Good Year The most seasonable rains fell in 1870, and the crops in consequence were abundant and all kinds of stock in excellent condition. Trade flourished exceedingly, too, and over the 287 miles of main road in the division passed what was officially described as "the greatest traffic in the Colony."

Crown Lands. For many years the survey of Crown Lands had been proceeded with, but even although much work had been accomplished in this direction it could not be completed for a considerable time owing to the great extent of the country still to be surveyed by the one man engaged in the work. A large tract had, however, already been surveyed into farms, and in 1870 no less than 139 lots of unsurveyed waste Crown Land had been let for one year in lots averaging from 1,000 to 4,000 morgen each, yielding a revenue of £2,231 for the twelve months. A portion of these lands was leased in May, 1869, also for one year, for £1,238, so that in that month a sum of £3,469 was added to the revenue from lands which had previously yielded nothing whatever, but had been occupied by squatters of all descriptions, to the great annoyance and serious loss of neighbouring farmers.

Goat Farming Although a very large portion of this district is unsurpassed by any in the Colony for goat farming, the scheme initiated by Messrs. Blaine and others of importing large numbers of Angora goats from Asia Minor was not taken up by the farmers, as was anticipated; they preferred the ordinary description of goat as being larger for slaughtering purposes.

Fabulous Prices. If the year 1870 was good from a farmer's point of view, the year 1871 was better still. Unprecedented prices were realised for produce, but this operated in an opposite direction upon the inhabitants of the town. Meat, meal, vegetables, and indeed all the necessaries of life were nearly double (in some instances more than double) the price they were in 1870, and a further advance in prices was considered most likely. Slaughter stock had become so scarce that butchers could hardly keep up a supply of meat. The great demand for draught oxen, consequent on the immense number required for transport of goods to the upper districts and to the Diamond Fields, tended considerably to the scarcity of stock for slaughter.

Some of the prices realised here in this phenominal year may be interesting. Wheat reached 10s. a bushel, the average price for the Colony being 6s. 8½d.; barley, 6s. per bushel, average price for the Colony 3s. 9d.; rye, 7s. 6d., average price for Colony 4s. 1d.; mealies, 7s. 6d., average price for Colony 4s. 9¾d.; potatoes, 6s. 6d. per bushel, average price for Colony 5s. 2d.

Transport was then scarcely obtainable even at enormous rates, and the advent of the railway was looked forward to with the keenest impatience. Those were halcyon days for transport riders, and many a fortune was made before the steam engine put an end for ever to this method of acquiring great wealth.

The Destruction of the Roads. One result of the enormous amount of transport passing through the district was the destruction of the roads. In some places they were destroyed faster than the means at the disposal of the Divisional Council could repair them, for the wagons, carrying from 8,000 to 10,000 lbs., ground all the metal to powder, which was swept away in tons by the high winds.

Waterford. In 1871 a steam flour mill was erected by Mr. Heubsch at the village of Waterford, on the banks of the Sundays River—the centre of a country capable of producing grain of very superior quality in large quantities if proper provision for irrigation were made. In this case Mr. Heubsch pumped the water out of the river by machinery, and irrigated with it a large extent of ground upon which soft wheat, that made excellent flour, was grown.

The Servant Difficulty. As the months went by the servant difficulty to which we have referred became so acute that, in the words of the Magistrate, "a regular panic was created." Efforts were made to supply the deficiency in Uitenhage and in Port Elizabeth by obtaining immigrants from St. Helena. It is evident that while native labour was 4s. 6d. a day menial labour would be scarce.

A Prosperous Year As was anticipated, the year 1872 was even more prosperous than its predecessor. Farmers realised absolutely unprecedented prices for their produce and stock of all descriptions; meal, oat hay, and grain of all kinds were treble what they were a few years previously, and the same might be said about the necessaries of life.

The high rate and the ever increasing demand for produce still continued, and was one of the causes of the great scarcity of slaughter stock, so many oxen being used in the carrying trade.

Labour Difficulties. But little progress had been made with the works of the railway between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, although the first sod was turned by the Governor in January, 1871. This was attributed to the very great scarcity of labour, which was experienced in every branch of industry to an alarming extent. Public and other works were almost at a standstill in consequence ; neither farm, domestic, nor day labourers could be obtained, and the few who would work, principally natives, were receiving most exorbitant wages.

Kafirs, Basutos, and others of the frontier tribes, came into the neighbourhood in small parties, worked for a few months, accumulating considerable sums of money, with which they removed to their own country. These parties consisted of men only, and would work merely on day wages, principally at the woolwashing establishments, where they earned from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per day.

A Rise in Property Landed property also rose rapidly in value, and the leasing of waste Crown Lands for twenty-one years gradually but surely tended to improve the district. Land in the Karroo, which was formerly considered of little if any value, and only inhabited by squatters of all descriptions, was being occupied by industrious and enterprising farmers, who erected good houses and constructed large and substantial dams. Cultivated lands and gardens might now be seen where formerly the only vegetation was the Euphorbia or the Karroo bush.

There was another very tangible proof of the wisdom of leasing these lands on such terms. In the sixties the Uitenhage district could not defray its own expenditure without drawing on the Colonial Treasury. In other words, it could not pay its way without help from Government. But in 1872 there was a different tale to tell, and instead of being a financial burden, it now added very considerably to the general revenue of the Colony, and was shortly afterwards destined to add much more, for while in 1872 there were fifty of these farms about to be leased, there were a hundred erven already surveyed, which were leased in 1873. Even then a large tract of country was still unsurveyed.

Rapid Progress of the District. On all sides were evidences of prosperity, and with prosperity came enterprise. The position is generally reversed, for prosperity usually follows enterprise. But the farmers were stimulated and cheered by the good times, and they extended their respective spheres of operations. Ostrich farming was more largely taken up, and the Angora goat began rapidly to take the place of the common goat. This step was followed by gratifying results, and on most farms large flocks of merino sheep were introduced. This, too, proved successful, for the northern part of the district is admirably adapted for this class of stock.

An Epidemic of Horse Sickness. But the year was not altogether one of unalloyed prosperity. During the early part of it great losses were experienced by farmers and others from horse sickness, large numbers of animals dying from that epidemic. In many cases, too, even stabled horses were not exempt. The increased demand caused by the number of transport and conveyance companies, together with the losses by the epidemic, rendered both horses and mules extremely scarce and ex-

pensive. An animal that would realise formerly from £10 to £20 could readily be disposed of at from £40 to £50.

Communication with Port Elizabeth

The Railway, as we have aleady said, was making slow progress, and communication with Port Elizabeth was still carried on by road. A passenger cart and a coach—the latter frequently taking as many as twenty-one passengers—plied daily between Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth once each way, and they were both well patronised. The scheduled time was three hours, but the journey was frequently done in less time.

In addition to this, a horse wagon belonging to the Midland Conveyance Company passed through the town once a week each way between Port Elizabeth and Graaff-Reinet, and it was generally crowded with passengrrs.

Severe Depression.

Cape Colony is a land of extremes, and a feast is generally followed by a famine. The prosperity of 1872 was followed by depression in 1873, and this was mainly attributable to the severe drought which raged that year.

The usual summer rains, without which the Karroo veld does not improve, did not fall. In consequence of this and of the continued drought, pasturage was extremely scarce and bad; the scarcity of water in the northern and western portions of the division, by failure of dams which had not been so dry for many years, if ever before, was so great that many farmers were compelled to remove their stock, and in very many instances their families also, to more favourable localities.

During November and December rain fell, but so partial was it that some of the exhausted dams were filled whilst others were washed away, and yet, within a mile and even in sight of the same locality, the country retained its parched and arid appearance! Most of the crops were therefore ruined, and the result was that the price of everything rose to a fabulous height.

Butter, which had been sold a few years previously at from 6d. to 1s. per lb., was for a considerable time obtainable only at 4s. 6d. and 5s. per lb.; meal, £3 per muid; butcher's meat rose to 7d. per lb., while forage (oat hay) was fetching the most exorbitant price of from £4 to £5 per 100 bundles at Christmas time, and was daily increasing in price. It eventually reached the almost incredible figue of £6 10s. per hundred bundles (1s. 3½d. per bundle), and it was not particularly good at that. These details are taken from the Civil Commissioner's official report on the situation to Government.

In fact it is not possible to quote anything that had not quadrupled in price. Many of the farmers were in consequence reaping a rich harvest for their produce; but many others had nothing to bring to market. All persons with fixed and limited means suffered severely by this state of affairs, and many of them were nearly ruined.

Transport, upon which many of the smaller families depended, came to a complete standstill, and wealthy farmers who had produce to bring to market were debarred from doing so by the arid state of the veld through which they had to travel with their oxen.

As could only be expected, the result was that little progress or improvement can be recorded. The archives of the town and district are silent upon almost everything except the drought. Scarcity and dearness of provisions caused a considerable increase of crime, and the gaol at Christmas time was full of criminals either undergoing sentence or awaiting trial. An examination of the prison books shows that the building had scarcely ever been so full during twelve months as it was in 1873.

The Good Templars.

A Good Templar Lodge was established here in 1873, and in his official report the Magistrate states that the Society was already "quietly working a considerable amount of good; but still I regret to say that drunkenness prevails to a great extent—probably, however, not to a greater extent than in any European town with so large a population. Several deaths have resulted from this cause. High wages and cheap brandy, which unfortunately is the only article of consumption that can be called cheap, are conducive to this amongst a population consisting of Europeans of all descriptions at the railway works, and natives from every tribe on the frontier at the nine woolwashing establishments."

Prices of Necessaries

Milk in Uitenhage was 6d. a bottle, pork 1s. 6d. per lb., beef 1s., mutton 7d., salt butter 2s. 8d. per lb., cheese 2s., tea 4s. 6d. per lb. (tea was 6s. 6d. in Alexandria), coffee 1s. 3d. per lb., sugar 6d. per lb., rice 5½d. per lb., raisins 8d. per lb., salt 2s. per bucket. This last-named commodity was no less than 12s. 6d. per bucket in Alexandria, and the average price for it in the Eastern Province was 8s. 8d., and for the whole Colony 7s. 7d.

Willowmore. The flourishing town of Willowmore will not celebrate its jubilee for another ten years, for it was not until early in 1864 that the Dutch Reformed Church was established there, and this event may be looked upon as the real foundation of the town and district. The site upon which Willowmore stands was originally part of the farm "Van der Westhuizen's Kraal," and it was purchased by Mr. William Moore in 1861 for the purpose of laying out the township. Unfortunately for him, however, his speculation proved unsuccessful, as most of the town remained unsold, and it was not untill 1873—twelve years later—that he was able to find a purchaser in the Dutch Reformed Church. The property was taken over by this body, and the remaining erven quickly found purchasers. A few houses and stores had already been erected, and even before the church took over the site the hamlet gave promise of becoming a convenient centre. Mr. B. Z. Stegmann, the "grand old man" of Willowmore, was advertising auction sales there in 1871.

View of Willowmore.

The Name.

With regard to the name of the town, the popular theory is that it received this appellation by reason, firstly, of there being a few willow trees on the original site, and secondly, that the founder was Mr. Moore; hence Willow-moore. But the method of naming South African towns generally consists of using either the surname of the founder or of some celebrity, or of combining both the Christian and the surname, prominent local features seldom being associated with these appellations—as, for instance, Uitenhage, Pretoria, Kimberley, Harrismith, Ladysmith, Graaff-Reinet, Pietermaritzburg, etc., and it is more than probable that the original idea was to call this place Williamoore. The presence of the trees would easily lead people to think that the first part of the name was Willow instead of William, and thus the error would be perpetuated by common usage. There was at one time a prevalent idea that "Uitenhage" was a compound of three Dutch words—*Uit-den-Hague*—and that this indicated a similarity between the site of the town and the Hague in Holland. The theory was ingenious in the extreme, but unfortunately for its accuracy the Hague is as flat as the proverbial pancake.

Fiscal History.

For some years Steytlerville formed part of the district of Willowmore, but a separate congregation was afterwards formed, and this was followed later still by the formation of that district. It still falls, however, within the fiscal division of Willowmore. In 1874 Willowmore was created a seat of Magistracy, and a fiscal division in 1880. This latter consists of portions of the districts of Uitenhage, Humansdorp, Graaff-Reinet, Beaufort West, Prince Albert, and George.

The Dutch Reformed Church.

As we have said, the Dutch Reformed Church was established early in 1864, the Rev. van der Riet, of Oudtshoorn, being the first consulent minister. The Rev. P. N. Ham subsequently received a call from the newly-formed congregation, and he accepted it Ten months after his induction, however, he died, and was succeeded by the Rev. George Murray, who remained there for nine years. Since then several changes have taken

place, the last minister being the Rev. J. A. Beyers. He lately accepted a call to Lichtenburg (Transvaal), and his successor is the Rev. J. Albertyn, B.A., B.D.

The New Church.

Until 1879 the services were conducted in a small building, but in that year the new church, of which we reproduce a photograph, was erected at a cost of about £8,000. It will seat eight hundred people, and the contractors were Messrs. Rintoul & Dunlop. At a later date a good organ was installed at a cost of over £1,000.

D R Church, Willowmore.

The Mayors.

The Board of Management was formed on the 10th January, 1882, and existed until April 16th, 1884, when the Municipality was created. The first Mayor was Mr. S. F. Rintoul, who officiated for four months only. He was succeeded by Mr. B. Z. Stegmann, who has acted as Mayor for no less than eighteen years (1884-86, 1888-93, 1894-97, 1898-1906), the others being Mr. T. H. Matthews (1886-87, 1893-94, 1897-98), Mr. R. S. Dobson, 1887-88. So that in the whole of its twenty years of Municipal existence Willowmore has only had three Mayors.

There have been five Town Clerks, viz., April, 1884, to December, 1884, Mr. S. Puth; 1884 to 1898, Mr. G. W. Muggleston; 1898 to 1902, Mr. F. J. Snook; February, 1902, to October, 1903, Mr. H. B. Colling; while the present Town Clerk is Mr. R. H. Lloyd.

Town Council.

The present Town Council consists of Mr. B. Z. Stegmann (Mayor), Messrs. P. M. Norden, J. W. Shand, G. W. Muggleston, E. H. Colborn, and P. Lewitton. The Pound Master is H. Meintjes.

The ratable value of the town is £141,147, and the valuation £161,497, the rate levied being 1¼d. in the £.

The English Church

was completed in 1881 and was consecrated by the Bishop of Cape Town the same year.

Parliamentary.

Willowmore was included in the electoral division of Beaufort West until the last Redistribution Bill was passed, and it now forms, with Jansenville, a separate electoral division under the designation of Jansenville—this notwithstanding that Willowmore has a larger population, a larger number of registered voters, and a higher ratable valuation than Jansenville.

Public Institutions.

There are now three Churches (Dutch Reformed, Anglican, and Wesleyan) and two good schools for Europeans, three native schools in town, and fifty within the division. Willowmore is a great business centre, and boasts of twenty-three retail shops, two hotels, and two banks. It possesses a Chamber of Commerce, a Town Hall, and the Library is an excellent one. This last-named institution was started in 1881, and even then contained over 1,000 volumes. Since then it has been considerably enlarged and is well patronised.

General Progress.

The town is now connected by rail, and is situated on the Klipplaat-Oudtshoorn line. It is 92 miles from Oudtshoorn, 123 from Graaff-Reinet, and 165 from Uitenhage.

Water-boring has been extensively carried out with great success during the past few years, and some holes are yielding 62,000 gallons per diem.

The present C.C. & R.M. is Mr. J. D. Hugo.

A bi-lingual paper, called the *Karroo News*, is published weekly.

There are two Good Templar Lodges—one for Europeans and one for natives.

The Market.

Willowmore is noted for its mohair, wool, and ostrich feathers, and there is a good market for all kinds of produce, vegetables, &c. It is held daily at 7 a.m. in summer and 8 a.m. in winter, produce being sold daily if required.

The returns for the year ending 30th June, 1904, are: Morning market, £7,343 4s.; produce market, £16,626 15s. 3.; total, £23,969 19s. 3d. Those for the year ending 30th June, 1905, are: Morning market, £7,430 5s 11d.; produce market, £13,646 19s. 3d.; total, £21,077 5s. 2d.

Morning Market, Willowmore.

Population.

The census returns show a total population of 2,167 in town and 21,889 in the district.

Uitenhage Locomotive Works.

The foundation and subsequent growth of the Government Railway Workshops in Uitenhage synchronising with the development of the Colony and the opening up of northern territory and the gold fields, it is imperative that some details of the inception and progress of the Midland System, of which it is the most important railway centre, should be touched upon.

We are not sure of the year, but sometime during 1869 or 1870 a body of gentlemen resident in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage decided that it was time better facilities were afforded to meet the growing needs of the travelling public living in the sister towns. Important as this consideration was, there was a greater, and that we are informed was the rapidly-growing industry of woolwashing in the Zwartkops Valley; at any rate, whatever the mixed motives were they had a solid foundation in a business sense, and the promoters received strong support. The Chairman was Mr. Macdonald, a Port Elizabeth merchant, and the members of the Board included the late Mr. Mosel, Mr. Frederick Lange, and Mr. Gubb (the father of our esteemed townsman); and the late Mr. Bidwell, who founded the *Uitenhage Times*, represented us in Parliament, and will be remembered as one of the best and most public-spirited citizens we Uitenhage people have had the honour to number in our midst. The promoters were offered a substantial inducement by the townspeople.

At that time the town affairs were in the hands of Commissioners, who preceded the Town Council, and about November, 1870, ninety-two residents approached these gentlemen with a suggestion that the Governor's consent should be immediately obtained to offer some land as a sort of bonus to any Company who would undertake the construction and, presumably, working of a railway between Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth; and after the usual discussion, correspondence, preparations of plans, &c., the grant was made under conditions set forth in detail in an interesting pamphlet published in 1884 dealing with the water rights on these same lands, a compilation which was the work of Mr. Abraham de Villiers.

Construction commenced at the Port Elizabeth end during 1872. Sir Henry Barkly, who was Governor of the Colony at the time, turned the first sod on January 9th, the place where this ceremony was performed being on the corner leading from the main line at the Zwarkops Junction. Before the line was completed to Zwartkops the Government took over the work, buying out the Company, with bigger schemes in view, embracing extension beyond Uitenhage to Graaff-Reinet, and in the other direction to Grahamstown and Cradock. It came about, strangely enough, that the Midland main line was opened to Addo two months before the work was completed to Uitenhage, the latter being opened in September, 1875.

The first Locomotive Superintendent on the Midland System was a Mr. Edwards, who, acting under Mr. Devonsher Scott, the Resident Engineer, erected the buildings that are now used as engine sheds at the North End, Port Elizabeth. This block as it stands represented up to about 1875 what was considered needful in the way of accommodation for engine and carriage and wagon repairs; when, however, the line was worked through to Uitenhage and the Government decided to extend in the direction of Graaff-Reinet and Cradock, a bigger scheme had to be devised, and the Uitenhage Shops were commenced.

The first completed block provided adequate

accommodation for repairing three locomotives at a time, and the Carriage Shops had room for half-a-dozen of the short four-wheeled vehicles then in use. The only portion that still remains intact is the Running Shed, and this has been reduced to the extent of one-third its original size. Small as the Workshops were then, there was one architectural feature since made away with, the handsome brick chimney, that we saw the last of within the past few years.

Trains over the main line to Addo, then the terminus, and Uitenhage were hauled by engines that are still doing good work shunting at Port Elizabeth. The first three imported were tank engines, these having tenders attached a year or two later. At the end of 1877 there were eighteen locomotives working. Of these seven were the property of the contractors, being taken over by the Government after the line was completed to but a great improvement on the shorter vehicle. There is an old photograph showing a train standing in Uitenhage Station, composed entirely of short coaches, being the first train that ran through to Graaff-Reinet.

The progress of construction is recorded in the dates of opening for traffic from point to point—Kariega in February, 1877, Mount Stewart in August, 1878, Aberdeen Road in February, 1879, Kendrew in March and Graaff-Reinet in August of the same year, the first through train from Port Elizabeth running on the 26th day of that month.

At the same time work was going on along the main line ; Coerney was reached in March, 1876, and Sandflats in April, Alicedale in August, 1877, Commadagga in February, the branch from Alicedale to Grahamstown on September 3rd, and Middleton on the 17th of the same month in 1879. In March, 1880, Cookhouse was reached, and Cradock

View of Loco. Works.

Sandflats, and four of these engines are still employed shunting in the railway yard. A year or two later eight engines with tenders arrived, built by Messrs. Kitson, of Leeds. These worked the main line trains for many years, and those that remain are still working as shunting engines in the Port Elizabeth goods yard, the tenders discarded and water carried in saddle tanks, a transformation that makes it difficult to identify them. Year after year more engines were imported, until in 1888 we had about ninety locomotives belonging to the Midland System.

The wagons and carriages running on the railway were all four-wheeled vehicles ; it was not until about 1884 that the longer type of Bogie carriage and wagon was introduced. The old short coaches were then mounted two together on one long Bogie frame, and so transferred into Bogie coaches, still narrow and low in the roof, in June, 1881 ; extensions had proceeded to Rosmead (then called Middelburg Road) by April, and Colesberg in October, 1883. Finally the junction with the Western System at De Aar was completed on the last day of March, 1884. The three termini, Graaff-Reinet, Colesberg, and Grahamstown, and De Aar Junction, were then and for some years the boundary limits of the Midland System.

From 1884 to 1890 there was no material increase in the number of vehicles or engines. Times were bad, and owing to this the Cape Government were able to assist the Imperial Government during the Soudan campaign of 1885, when they were hard-up for rolling stock. A few locomotives and wagons were shipped from the Colony to Egypt, and rafted down the Nile to Wady Halfa, where they were landed and put together by one of the Uitenhage foremen, who saw a good deal of the fighting, and returned to the Colony rather broken

in health with the hardships he had experienced.

In 1887 the Workshops occupied less than a third the area they do now. On the town side Drostdy Street was the boundary, and the ground now used for wagon repairs, then occupied by Mr. Dobson, was under cultivation, a large conservatory of the Crystal Palace order of architecture being a striking feature in the garden, whilst a relic of this building is the fountain now standing in the Town Hall grounds. In the other direction the boundary was at the town end of the Loco. cottages in Constitution Road ; the main line to Graaff-Reinet cut through what is now the centre of the Workshops, and a large area now covered with buildings on the Bay Road side was then a fine plantation of gum trees, which shaded the line for some distance and completely hid the Wool Shed.

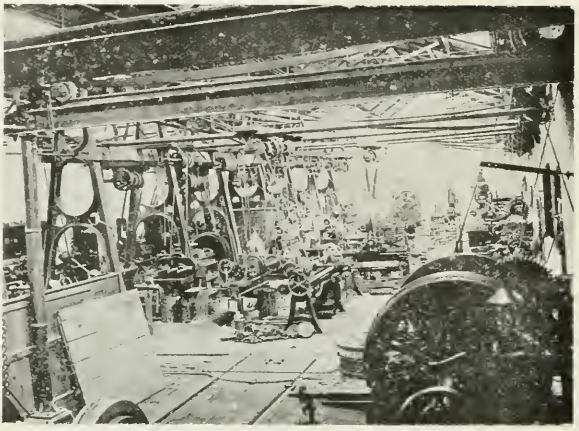
Thanks to the opening up of the Rand in 1887, a big increase in trade first made itself felt about the end of 1888, and to meet the needs of a steadily growing traffic extensions have gone forward almost without a break, the last of the series being the new Carriage Works, now in course of erection. First in order of importance is the present smiths' shop, built in 1890-91 ; and in the same year the Institute was opened, this replacing an old wooden building formerly used as the office of the Engineer (Mr. McEwen, now General Manager), which stood at what was then the bottom of Drostdy Street, below the block of Railway cottages now used by the timekeeper and clerical staff as offices. At that time there was a right of way for pedestrians from the Constitution Road side across the line to the Bay Road. When Mr. Dobson's property was taken over an arrangement was made with the Town Council to close this passage for a consideration, and now the only exit from the Shops to the Bay Road is by the footbridge erected for the convenience of *employees*. The wagon repairing staff were provided with a new yard on the town side of Drostdy Street, and the carriage builders took their places in the old yard and shed.

From the commencement regular and continuous improvements have been made in methods of work. Electric power has displaced manual labour for lifting the locomotives and moving them about the Workshops, and the wood-working machinery used in the wagon-repairing department and the lathes and other machines used for the work of repairing the hundred and one brass fittings used on locomotives are all now driven by electricity. Another departure is the extended use of compressed air, this displacing to a very large extent manual labour in the boiler shop ; it is also utilised for engraving the patterns on the large glass windows of the saloon carriages.

The growth of the shops has engendered a large increase in the labour employed. In 1888 there were only about 250 men and boys employed in the works, and now there are 1,130 on the books, and 1,419 employed on the Midland System as drivers, firemen, and mechanics in the running department alone. With this increase the outlay has increased from the comparatively small sum of £100,000 in 1888 to nearly £700,000 in 1903, and the wages paid in the Workshops alone run up to £11,000 a month. In 1888 the distance covered by Midland locomotives, hauling trains, was one million three hundred thousand miles ; last year it reached four million and sixty thousand miles. This increase, large as it is, does not represent the actual increase in the volume of traffic hauled, for in 1888 the type of engine in use over the whole system could pull less than one half the load the new engines can haul. A comparison is always of interest : the two first engines imported in 1874, named "Pioneer" and "Little Bess," each weighed 14 tons, and a third engine, "Miss" (named after one of Bret Harte's charming heroines), imported about the same time, weighed only eight tons. These were used for construction, and were the pioneers of the locomotives over the greater part

Types of Engines.

of the Midland System. Then came the first engines used for working regular trains carrying passengers and goods, large in comparison, and weighing about 28 tons. Now we have a type of engine working the main line trains that weigh nearly 96 tons!

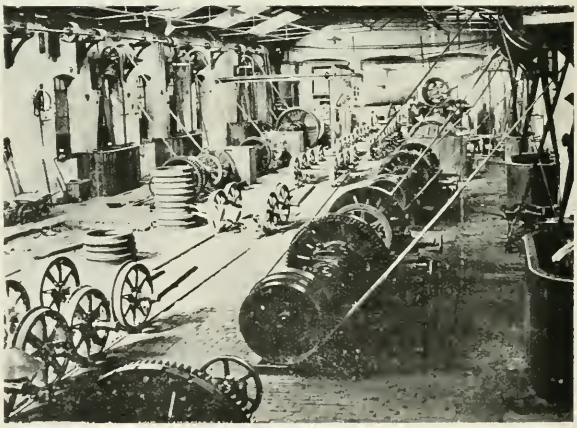


MACHINING SHOP.

In the same way the coaching stock has increased in length and accommodation. The first short coaches were fourteen and a half feet long, accommodating very few passengers. These in time were replaced with Bogie carriages of 47 feet and more in length, and later came the saloons of the same length. The wagon stock has increased in size in like manner, from the old short vehicle on four wheels fitted with chain brakes carrying a load of 6 tons, and weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons, to the latest type of wagon that will take a load of 30 tons and weighs $12\frac{1}{2}$ tons —vehicles fitted with the automatic vacuum brake, which assures safe travelling.

A Workshop such as this is of material benefit to the town. It has given an outlet for a large number of youths who have been trained into first-class mechanics; many of the old apprentices have remained in the service, but a far larger number have migrated North, where their services have helped to develop the gold industry. The Government of late years have recognised the necessity for a minimum standard of education in the case of all lads admitted, and an excellent Primary School is provided for all lads who have not passed the 5th Standard. This is supplemented by the technical classes held three evenings a week, where the apprentices can acquire a good elementary knowledge of the scientific principles that underlie the trade they follow.

A comfortable recreation room, having a properly equipped stage, provides means for concerts and theatrical entertainments, whilst a large reading room and first-class library, billiard, and card room, are available for recreation in connection with the Railway Institute, that receives some small support from Government, the balance of expense being met by a monthly subscription of ninepence per member. The benefits of this Institute the wives and families of *employes* enjoy in common.



WHEEL-TURNING SHOP.

These are bad times just now, but so long as the Midland System of the Cape Government Railways continues to exist the Uitenhage Workshops will flourish.

Uitenhage Politics

The political history of Uitenhage might be so written as to fill a volume, but we question whether it would be a particularly interesting volume. There have been many keenly-contested fights here, and innumerable speeches of varying merit have been delivered upon questions which have long since lost the slightest vestige of attraction for the people of to-day. Perhaps the historians of the future may care to reproduce some of them, and to enter into details regarding the circumstances which were responsible for their production; but these questions are so numerous and their natures are so widely different that it would require the expenditure of a very considerable amount of space to give the reader an intelligent idea of even a few of them, and we doubt whether an article of so heavy and ponderous a description would justify its existence. We shall therefore touch lightly only upon the more important phases of Uitenhage's political history and leave undisturbed the records of the less momentary issues, embrowned as they are with the dust of a quarter of a century and forgotten even by those who were actively engaged in them.

Prior to 1880 political life scarcely existed at all. The Cape Parliament represented not so much the people of the country as the personal ambitions of the members. Taxation was too indirect for South Africans to interest themselves seriously in the welfare of their country or to remind the majority of them that there was a Government; and taxation, after all, is the soul of the people's politics. Again, there were scarcely then as many miles of railway in existence in the country as there are hundreds to-day; the cable was non-existent. Consequently, owing to the length of time occupied in the transmission of news, Uitenhage was the centre of a little world of its own and politics were practically a dead letter here—as in other parts—for many, many years after Responsible Government was granted. The earlier members of Parliament were duly elected, and once they were returned the public at large troubled very little about their doings in the House. Mr. Gibson, for instance, adopted as his battle-cry, "Vote for Gibson; he will oppose a tax on wool!" Now, nobody had ever suggested such a thing as a tax on wool; but some excitement had to be roused to induce people to vote, and the ruse was successful!

The Rise of the Bond.

It was not until after Majuba that a change came over the scene, and the sympathies which culminated in the recent war were then being aroused. Means of communication between Colonial centres had vastly improved, newspapers and postal facilities had increased, and the country began to awaken in real earnest. The British had despised the Boers, and now the tables were being turned. Had there been that harmony between the two peoples that there should have been, there would have been no Majuba in 1881, no war twenty years later, and no race-hatred to-day. It was at this stage that the Bond was founded—largely as a reply to British contempt and Imperial blundering.

The Bond in Uitenhage.

The local genius of the Bond was Mr. R. W. Mohr, then a young teacher on the Hon. P. S. Bellingan's farm, and comparatively unknown. Possessed of untiring energy and a gift for organisation, he soon established the Bond throughout the district, and his influence shortly became more than local. He was one of the central figures in the yearly congresses, and for a time the general secretary.

The first election in which the Bond voted was a queer contest (in 1884) between General Nixon and Messrs. Tudhope and Slabbert. The gallant General, as a Jack-o'-both-sides, was quite safe. He had made his peace with the Bond (then not quite as difficult as now), while as a British ex-General his Imperialism was beyond dispute. The fight was between the two latter, and was practically a dead-heat, with, however, a declared advance in favour of Mr. Tudhope. Had the Bond been as "flush" in those days as now, it is quite probable that an election petition would have reversed the declaration. But, alas! there were none of the "benevolent millionaires" Professor Fremantle now boasts of, and an election petition was then, as now, too costly a luxury for the private citizen with merely an axe of his own to grind.

The Railway Vote.

An influence, on the whole hostile to the Bond, now began to rise in Uitenhage—the Railway Vote. Although the district was unsuited to small stock, it was most valuable for cattle rearing, and much of the road transport to Kimberley and the North was done by Uitenhage teams, the usual freights being 30s. per 100 lbs., or £150 per wagon load per trip. Uitenhage farmers frequently had several spans each on the road, and, as four or five journeys could be made in the year, they soon became wealthy men. They spent the bulk of their money in Uitenhage, and, together with the woolwashers, were the mainstay of the town. With the extension of the railway, transport riding grew unprofit-

able. Gradually it ceased, and the district became impoverished.

In the town the Railway Workshops more than compensated for the loss the district had sustained. "Ou nooi's wagen" (as the trains were nicknamed by transport riders) was far from popular with our country cousins. The effect of the new vote began to tell. The railway *employes* were as little in sympathy with the farmers as the farmers were with them. They were almost to a man Old Country born. There was little to connect the new-comers with the old; on the other hand, there was much to divide them, and the advent of the new power was one. The influence of the Bond was much too sudden. A longer apprenticeship to the responsibilities of power would have given those who led it maturer and broader views and a spirit of compromise then distinctly wanting and even to-day not quite satisfactory.

The wave of civilisation was with the new-comers. Gradually the carrying trade became a town industry, and enriched the town to the loss of the country.

How the Bond Won its Spurs

In 1885, however, an episode occurred which placed an entirely different face upon the matter. We refer to the great question of removing a portion of the Loco. Works to Cape Town.

The Bond took the matter up with the greatest keenness, and the local branch was indefatigable in its endeavours to prevent the suggested removal. At first the Government proved obdurate, but so well was the campaign worked that, thanks to the cordial co-operation of the Bond, Colonel Schermbrucker eventually visited Uitenhage and declared on behalf of the Government that the Railway Workshops would not be removed from the town. The good work the Bond had done was promptly recognised. A Municipal invitation was sent asking them to hold their next Congress in Uitenhage, and this they agreed to do. The Council placed the Town Hall at their disposal, while the townspeople made them their guests during the whole of their stay—the first time such hospitality had ever been extended to them. There was no question of race-hatred then; on the other hand, there was a friendship, sincere and mutual.

In 1891 an election of members of the Upper House took place, the candidates being Messrs. Wilmot, John Dolley, and Brister (Progressives), and Mr. P. S. Bellingan (Bond). It was the first occasion on which the Bond had attempted a seat in the Circle, and some difficulty was experienced in getting a candidate to come forward. At first the choice fell on a Mr. Moolman, of Somerset East, who accepted the request and was for a time in the field. Later on he withdrew. Mr. Bellingan, who had been selected as the alternate candidate, was then called upon. Although it was thought a forlorn hope, Mr. Bellingan promptly responded, and after a gallant fight was returned at the head of the poll. The strong man was undoubtedly Mr. Brister, of Port Elizabeth; but victory is not always to the strong, and it was the strong man who was defeated, the Honourables Bellingan, Wilmot, and Dolley being the elected. The Hon. John Dolley generously volunteered to resign in favour of Mr. Brister, but this Mr. Brister would not allow. Mr. Bellingan's victory was well earned, for he had rendered splendid service to Uitenhage in its time of distress, and this was not forgotten in 1891, while his return was all the more popular with his friends after the weak withdrawal of Mr. Moolman. A big dinner was given in honour of the event in the Town Hall, and this was attended by not only the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, but by many of the Progressive Party.

At the general election of 1893 there were four candidates—Dr. Arthur B. Vanes, Mr. G. F. Rautenbach, Mr. John Mackay, and Mr. H. W. Bidwell. The first two stood in the Bond interest and the latter in that of the Progressives. A spirited contest ensued, and resulted in the election of Dr. Vanes and Mr. Rautenbach. The former obtained 1,858 votes and the latter 1,828, while Messrs. Mackay and Bidwell received 1,083 and 1,053 respectively. The electoral division then consisted of the districts of Uitenhage, Humansdorp, Alexandria, Jansenville, and the Steytlerville part of Willowmore.

The Jameson Raid took place at the beginning of 1896, and from then a change commenced which there was no mistaking. A great cleavage ensued between the two parties, and this was the beginning of the end.

Redistribution.

For some years previously to 1898 there had been a growing agitation in favour of fairer representation of the people. A Committee selected from both sides of the House drew up a report on the subject, and Sir Gordon Sprigg's Government brought in a Bill to give effect to the suggestions. Mr. Hofmeyr, who had been perfectly agreeable to these suggestions throughout, suddenly discovered that they would probably entail a Bond minority at the next election. The Bond was therefore instructed to oppose the second read-

ing of the Redistribution Bill, and the members did so, with but five exceptions. Amongst these five was Dr. Vanes, senior member for Uitenhage, who had until then been a member of the Bond Party. He refused to vote against the Bill, and for this crime he was practically compelled to resign his Party membership. He then entered the Progressive ranks.

A vote of no confidence in the Government was carried, a dissolution followed, and at the ensuing election the Bond had all the luck. Sir Gordon resigned, and Mr P. W. Schreiner reigned in his stead—the first Bond Prime Minister there had been.

Though both the Vryburg and one of the Stellenbosch seats were for a time held by Progressives, Uitenhage was the only permanent victory of that party, and the victory was as unexpected as it was complete. In 1894 the Bond majority was nearly 800, while in 1898 the progressives won by 279, and the figures are so remarkable that we give them in full. It will be seen with what solidity the parties voted throughout, and we believe that such polling as this is unique in the history of South Africa. The returns show the position of the candidates at intervals throughout the counting of the votes :

DE VILLIERS.	GOUWS.	LEE.	VANES.
361	359	534	540
471	469	702	706
746	745	1013	1017
1069	1069	1185	1188
1339	1339	1596	1596
1552	1559	1900	1897
1642	1641	2019	2017
1839	1812	2118	2118

Neither Mr. Rhodes nor anyone else out of Uitenhage had anticipated this result ; it came late in the day, when the Progressives were despairing. Shortly afterwards it ensured the passing of the Redistribution Bill, the motion which authorised this far-reaching measure of justice having been carried by the official vote of the Speaker. Mr. Rhodes always insisted that it was the steadfast perseverance of the Uitenhage Progressive Party that saved the position, and, judging from the temper the Bond have since displayed, that body was, and is, of the same opinion. An election petition was filed against the return of the victors, the offender-in-chief being Dr. Vanes (a non-smoker). The charges of corruption were somewhat quaint. One free and independent voter had been bribed with a roll of tobacco and another with sweets ; but the cream of the joke was that yet another staunch and loyal Bondsman had been induced to "vote Rhodes" by the offer to him by Dr. Vanes of a deaconship in the Dutch Church ! In the long run the petition was withdrawn.

The result of the election was a majority of five Progressives in the Upper House, to which the old members—the Honourables John Dolley, Wilmot, and Bellingan—had been returned, all as Progressives, and a Bond majority of one in the Assembly. Practically it was a drawn game. Neither side had any material advantage. In the Lower House the Bond had only won by a significant change of policy.

War broke out in 1899 and continued until 1903. When hostilities had ceased a general election took place, and again Uitenhage was successful in returning its old members (Dr. Vanes and Mr. Lee). Their opponent on this occasion was Professor H. E. S. Fremantle, one of the editors of the *South African News*, but he was defeated by 137 votes. There were some lively and exciting scenes witnessed at this election, but they were not to be compared with those that took place on the previous occasion.

At the ensuing session a Bill which provided several additional seats was carried, and this gave to Uitenhage another seat in the Lower House and to the South-Eastern Circle an additional one in the Upper House. Messrs. Pyott and Wilmot had been elected to the Legislative Council in 1904 in the Progressive interests, while the Hon. P. S. Bellingan was returned as the Bond member, thus defeating Mr. R. F. Hurndall. The Additional Representation Bill having been carried, however, a contest ensued for the vacancy in the Upper House and resulted in the Hon. R. F. Hurndall defeating Mr. H. P. Mattheus, the Bond candidate, by 2,885 votes, the totals being : Hurndall 6,263, Mattheus 3,378.

About a month later the election for the newly-created seat in the House of Assembly took place, the two candidates being Mr. Thos. W. Mills (Progressive) and Professor Fremantle (Bond), and resulted in a majority for Mills of only 18 votes. A petition was lodged against Mr. Mills' return, but after a lengthy trial the Supreme Court gave judgment in that gentleman's favour.

Humansdorp, Alexandria, and Jansenville.

In the meantime Humansdorp was separated from Uitenhage in April, 1899, under the Redistribution Act, and returned as its member Mr. J. M. Rademeyer, who was unsuccessfully opposed by Mr. Samuel Hawkins (the Progressive candidate). The figures were : Rademeyer (Bond), 541 ; Hawkins (Progressive), 327.

Alexandria (taken from the Uitenhage electorate and added to Albany) returned Mr. Thomas, and Jansenville (with which is included Steytlerville and Willowmore) returned Mr. C. J. Lotter, who contested the seat with Mr. Molteno (Bond) and Messrs. S. B. Hobson and B. Z. Stegmann as Progressives, the votes recorded being as follows :— Lotter, 983 ; Molteno, 916 ; Hobson, 460 ; Stegmann, 408.

Capital Punishment in Uitenhage

In the old days executions were public, and they never failed to attract considerable crowds of sightseers. The scaffold was erected on the veld some little distance from town, but afterwards it was placed immediately behind the prison. The steps which led up to the structure were, we are told, when not "otherwise in use," employed by bathers who were in the habit of swimming in the pond at the corner of John Street, when getting in and out of the water.

In the seventies a coloured man was sentenced to death for the murder of another, and in due course Edouard von Witt, the public hangman, arrived in Uitenhage and inspected the instrument upon which the malefactor was to pay the penalty of his crime. This was stored in the gaol. As soon as he saw it he unhesitatingly condemned it as cruel and barbarous. It appears that the actual gallows had been made by a local man in the days when executions here were performed by either one of the gaolers or by a convict. It consisted of a long hollow cylinder, inside of which a pole was placed. This pole had a small platform on the top, and in order to work the apparatus the pole was pushed up through the cylinder and fastened by a bolt. The criminal, standing on the platform with a rope fastened round his neck and tied to a beam above his head, would feel his floor sink gently under him—for the pole fitted tightly—and finally leave him suspended in the air. As there was no "drop," death resulted from prolonged strangulation and not from a broken neck. This ingenious instrument, as we have said, was condemned by Von Witt, and he was soon occupied with the construction of a gallows upon more up-to-date principles. This took some time, and the new instrument was not ready for use until a week after the day originally appointed for the execution. Two days prior to the final act being carried out a reprieve arrived from Cape Town, and the prisoner's sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. He was subsequently released, after serving seventeen years, returned to Uitenhage, and was eventually found dead in the bush at the top of what is now Park Avenue.

Executions, of which there have been several here, now take place within the females' exercise yard in the prison.

Public Floggings

After the Circuit Court had finished its sessions in Uitenhage the prisoners sentenced to be flogged were, in the seventies, tied up to triangles erected in the middle of the Market Square. The sight was a repulsive one, and the yells of the men could sometimes be heard at long distances. This publicity was also abolished, and these unpleasant episodes now take place within the prison walls.

Part VIII.—The Decade, 1874–1883.

Continuous Drought

The drought continued unabated until September, 1874, with the inevitable results. The farmers were growing desperate over their losses, and the position was becoming more and more serious every day, when rain set in. In other parts of the Colony extensive floods took place and wrought havoc. But Uitenhage fortunately escaped this crowning disaster, and the rains, though plentiful, did but little damage.

The prices of stock were still high, oxen readily fetching £21 10s. and milch cows £26.

Improvement Among the Coloured Classes

The coloured people at this period began to awake to the possibilities of improving their position, and it soon became noticeable that the better classes frequently attended auctions. They were spirited bidders at stock sales, and many of them acquired property of their own by honest and industrious habits. Trade commenced to improve about the end of the year, and the Oriental and Standard Banks appear, from their reports, to have done good business.

A Serious Question.

The servant difficulty had still to be solved, but by 1874 it had become so serious a matter as to form the subject of Parliamentary debate. The people of Uitenhage were no better off than their neighbours, and it seemed as if servants could not be obtained either for love or for money. Complaints as to their scarcity were on the increase, but it was hoped that the liberal provisions made by the Government for aiding those who wished to introduce immigrants from Europe would in course of time alleviate the evil.

The Railway Opened.

The year 1875 was one of steady progress in the division after the cruel reverses of the past three years. The great event, of course, was the opening of the railway to the town on the 23rd of September, and passenger traffic increased rapidly. To the people of Uitenhage the arrivals and departures of the trains were a source of never-ending interest and amusement; many of them had never seen a locomotive before. For many weeks the station was always thronged with sight-seers when the time approached for the departure or the arrivals of the train. The transport riders looked upon the innovation with unfriendly eyes, and prophesied the ruin of the country; but this was only to be expected.

Buildings for workshops in connection with the Railway Department were begun on a very extensive scale this year, as Uitenhage had been reported on as being the most desirable locality for the purpose. With this matter, however, we have dealt fully in the proper place.

Effects of the Railway.

The first effect of the more rapid and easy communication between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage was the increase in the prices of all articles of consumption: vegetables, butter, eggs, and, in fact, all articles realised higher prices on the Uitenhage market than in Port Elizabeth, while the great demand for labour caused by the construction of railways considerably increased the difficulty experienced in obtaining domestic and other servants. The farmers in particular complained of want of labour.

The demand for houses was so great that not a dwelling could be procured, and consequently rents, even for inferior dwellings, were exorbitantly high. A very large number of building plots were sold at exceedingly high prices, and good houses began to be built.

Population.

It is always interesting to watch the gradual growth of a community and to compare the statistics compiled at appreciable intervals, and in order to see how Uitenhage was progressing thirty years ago it will be necessary to take the totals of two enumerations, *i.e.*, the census of 1865 and that of 1875.

In the former year there were 18,148 people in the town and district altogether (7,206 Europeans and 10,942 others). In 1875 there were 21,392 people altogether (9,385 Europeans and 12,007 others).

In 1865 the town contained 3,342, and 3,693 in 1875—a difference of only 351 in ten years.

There were 674 houses uninhabited and building in both town and district that year (1875), and 1,900 inhabited houses and 2,044 huts. In the town itself, however, there were 408 houses, 230 huts, and the population was made up of 1,932 males and 1,761 females—3,693 in all.

The Agricultural State of the District.

With regard to the amount of land cultivated, the differences are often somewhat startling. In 1865, 4,319 morgen were cultivated, and 4,370 in 1875. Of these wheat occupied 1,440 morgen in 1865, and 1,212 in 1875; barley occupied 369 morgen in 1865 and 183 in 1875, rye 13 morgen in 1865 and only *one* in 1875, oats 1,936 in 1865 and 1,441 in 1875, maize 235 in 1865 and 881 in 1875, peas and beans 35 as against 53 in 1875, tobacco 13 as against 9 in 1875, potatoes 166 as against 293 in 1875, while in the ten years the number of morgen devoted to orangeries and orchards had risen from 47 to 225—nearly a fourfold increase. There were 61 morgen under vines in 1865 and 58 in 1875, the difference in production being 361,700 vines in 1865 and 104,295 in 1875.

In town there were twelve woolwashes, one sawmill, one brewery, two aerated water manufacturies, and one brickfield, while there were 15 corn mills in the district.

Stock Returns

The following returns of stock are interesting as showing how some had increased and how others had decreased within a decade. Horses in 1865 numbered 5,313, and in 1875 3,544; mules and asses had decreased in this period from 895 to 556, while the number of draught cattle had risen from 19,529 to 24,017. Other cattle had increased from 23,040 in 1865 to 26,151, Angora goats from 2,247 to 60,635, while "other goats" had dwindled from 298,613 in 1865 to 256,702 in 1875. Of ostriches Uitenhage possessed 883 and Humansdorp 230.

Of mohair 15,322 lbs. were produced in 1879, while in Uitenhage the yield of ostrich feathers was 268 lbs., and in Humansdorp 52 lbs.

The Effects of the Depression

Uitenhage must have suffered considerably from the commercial depression, for the number of liquid civil cases disposed of by the Magistrate in 1875 was second only to that of Cape Town, amounting as it did to 159 actions for £2,758, Cape Town coming first with 231 cases for £4,111. The same official also disposed of 370 criminal cases in the twelve months, those at Humansdorp for the same period being 172.

Railway Progress.

Little of interest took place in 1876 beyond the progress of the railway, and the rapid and energetic way in which the extensive buildings for the workshops were pushed forward. These, in fact, were nearly completed, "together with seven good houses, which made fourteen excellent dwellings for mechanics." The line had reached the fortieth mile post, and was opened in the early part of 1877 as far as Glenconnor, where a neat station had been erected.

Waste Crown Lands.

The advantage derived by leasing waste Crown lands became more and more apparent every year; large tracts of desert land were now occupied by English farmers of a superior class, dams were constructed, lands were cultivated, and comfortable houses nestled amid gay flower gardens, where formerly nothing was seen but dreary clumps of euphorbia and the wretched huts of squatters.

Many Kafirs and Fingoes began to hire land from the farmers, and were becoming wealthy. Some of them possessed large flocks of goats and sheep, and also cattle and horses.

The Savings Bank.

Uitenhage headed the entire list of Colonial cities and towns in 1876 so far as the Government Savings Bank was concerned. The amount deposited during the twelve months was £1,845, of which £224 was withdrawn, leaving £1,621 due. The next in order was Cradock with £889 to the credit of the depositors. To the railway construction this was no doubt largely attributable, for the population had largely increased. Indeed, 2,303 persons were paying house tax in this year.

A Fateful Year

Uitenhage has seldom, if ever, experienced such a fearful period of depression as she did in 1877. It is one of the blackest years in her history. The crops failed in all parts of the district, the dams were baked dry, the veld was withered and

scorched, terrible gales, hot as from an oven, frequently raged for days without cessation, bush fires occurred, and rendered the fierceness of the heat almost insufferable by man and beast. The months passed slowly by, days of humiliation and prayer were held, but still the veld blackened under the sun and the cattle lay down and perished by the hundred. Sheep and goats died by the thousand. The air was heavy with the stench of the carcases, and still the drought continued unabated. Then came the dreaded horse-sickness. Farms situated on the breezy highlands, where this disease was never known before, became infected and suffered equally with those lying lower down. The horses sickened and died by scores, and each morning saw others infected. Great numbers of the farmers were left without a single horse to ride, others lost the whole of their stock—ostriches, cattle, mules, sheep, goats, horses, crops, everything; others, only slightly less unfortunate, were compelled to leave their farms in search of pasture and water for the miserable remnant of their once large flocks. Springs that had never been known to fail dwindled and shrank and gave in altogether. The Sundays River, which flows through the length of the district, and upon which great tracts of fertile land are almost wholly dependent for irrigation, became so low as to render irrigation out of the question. The inhabitants of villages and farms on its very banks were put to great straits even to get sufficient water for drinking and washing purposes.

The Rise of Ostrich Farming. The great ostrich feather boom will long be remembered by most people in South Africa with feelings of a somewhat mixed description, and it may be said to have begun in 1878. Little if any progress can be reported with regard to industries in the Uitenhage district, except in the case of ostrich farming, for the drought had practically ruined everything, and this part of the country would naturally take a long time to recover. When the rains did come they arrived too late for much to be done, and the farmers began to turn their attention more seriously than before to the advantages of the feather trade. As time went on there were few farmers that did not possess their numerous ostrich camps, for it was speedily discovered that this class of farming was much more profitable than agriculture, or even sheep farming. All breadstuffs and the necessaries of life, however, were exorbitantly dear in 1878, but the feather boom had begun and, despite the heavy cost of such a procedure, mealies were even imported to feed the ostriches. We shall see how the industry rose by leaps and bounds and then suddenly declined.

Trade generally was in a terribly depressed condition, and very little was done anywhere. The railway, however, reached Mount Stewart this year, and it carried with it a certain measure of prosperity to some.

Dunbrody Mission The Catholic Native Mission Station of Dunbrody, situated some six miles from Bluecliff and twelve from Coerney, consists of two farms, Geelhoutboom and Grass Ridge, the joint area being about 7,000 acres. These farms were purchased by Bishop Ricards in 1878 for the Trappist Monks, whom he brought out to South Africa two years later, and he christened the property Dunbrody, after an ancient abbey erected by the Cistercians more than 500 years ago in the county of Wexford.

For two years and more did the Trappists remain at Dunbrody, and during their stay they laboured with their well-known skill and energy to bring the soil under cultivation. But their efforts were for the most part thrown away, the drought during this period being exceptionally severe in the Sundays River Valley, and finally the Monks, despairing of ever being able to carry on successful agricultural pursuits in a region so arid, decided to abandon the place and direct their steps to Natal. Before they left Dunbrody was sold to the Jesuit Order, and on the 8th December, 1882, the first Jesuit Fathers and Brothers arrived to take up their abode at the place.

When the Reverend Father Weld purchased Dunbrody he had a twofold end in view. In the first place he intended that this should be the residence and home of studies of the younger members of the Order who were preparing themselves for the priesthood and for future mission work among the natives of the interior; it was also his intention that Dunbrody should itself be a mission station for Kafirs, Hottentots, and any other coloured people who might elect to settle on the place. A few years sufficed to show that the first part of the scheme could not be carried out; for, mainly owing to years of almost uninterrupted drought, Dunbrody proved incapable of supporting the students of the Zambesi Mission, who, together with their Professors, numbered about forty souls. All possible means were tried to make both ends meet, but, spite of every endeavour, it became more and more evident that the place was unsuited for a home of studies, and in the year 1888 it was

finally decided to send the students to Europe for the completion of their course of studies. The fine library of theological, philosophical, scientific, and historical works which still remain at Dunbrody speaks eloquently to visitors of the intentions which the droughts of Sundays River Valley frustrated.

When the Jesuit missionaries first came to Dunbrody only one or two native families resided on the property. By degrees others came from the towns or surrounding districts, and the work of converting them to Christianity began. All new-comers were asked if they were willing to attend religious instruction and to send their children, if old enough, to school. They were given to understand that certain heathen practices, such as polygamy, immoral dances, witchcraft, &c., would never be tolerated at Dunbrody, and further, that people who settled on the farm might be dismissed for bad conduct, or if, after a reasonable lapse of time, they showed no sign of willingness to abandon their pagan ideas. The conditions of settlement and the reasons for imposing them were clearly explained, and it was only when they were freely and willingly accepted that native families were admitted and allotted ground for their habitations and land to till.

Mission work was started by the formation of a small school for boys, while coincidently with this instruction in the rudiments of Christianity was given each Sunday in Cape Dutch to all who would attend. For some time, as was to be expected, progress was slow; but by the end of 1885 twenty-two natives, the majority of them children, had been baptised at Dunbrody. During the succeeding four years there was an annual increase of about twenty converts to the faith.

After the last of the students had left for Europe, in 1890, the Reverend Father Corboy, who was at that time the Superior and parish priest of Dunbrody, was able to devote a great deal of his time to the work of instruction, and the number of those who were admitted to baptism rose steadily each year. The work in the schools likewise attained greater and greater proportions. The schoolboys were at first taught and looked after by one of the Jesuit students of Dunbrody. Shortly after the students left for Europe a Government grant was secured for the boys' school and also for that of the girls, and the lads were prepared for the annual inspection by one of the Fathers, while a Brother had charge of them out of school hours. The girls were lodged and boarded in premises specially built for them, and situated about half-a-mile from the main block of mission buildings, and they were taught and looked after by two ladies who had come to South Africa from Germany with the special intention of assisting in mission work among the blacks.

The number of scholars, among whom were several children whose relatives lived in Grahamstown or Port Elizabeth, increased little by little until there were about a hundred boys and girls in the two schools, and the existing accommodation had become much too limited. Accordingly early in 1900 Father Gillet, who four years earlier had succeeded Father Corboy as Superior of Dunbrody, designed a neat building which should for the future serve as the home for the boys, and this was completed before the end of the year. Another eighteen months saw the completion of an extensive addition to the building, in which the schoolgirls and their teachers are lodged. It may here be mentioned, by way of parenthesis, that both these schools, as well as most of the other buildings to be seen at Dunbrody, were constructed by a Belgian lay-brother of the Order, who for close on twenty years plied the trade of blacksmith, wheelwright, carpenter, and mason on this mission station. He died here in August of last year (1903), deeply regretted by everyone.

The two Dunbrody schools have been subject to the usual visits of the Government Inspector since 1891, and the reports have invariably been most satisfactory. Over and above their school work a certain number of boys are every afternoon, Saturdays excepted, taught shoemaking and tailoring in the workshops attached to the place; the remainder work in the garden.

Visitors to Dunbrody always express themselves very favourably impressed by the appearance and cheerfulness of the children, especially of the girls, who, in addition to their lessons, are taught to sew, knit, wash, iron, and perform other domestic duties.

At the present time the Christian congregation at Dunbrody numbers a little over 250 men, women and children. If a good annual rainfall and regular summer crops could be depended upon, the place would be capable of supporting a much larger population, as there is plenty of alluvial soil on either side of the Sundays River, which flows through the property. But the rainfall at Dunbrody is most uncertain, and the summer heat in the valley is terrific, the consequence being that time after time the people have cleared, ploughed, and sown their lands and got nothing at all for their labour. Employment is given to all the men

and older boys who apply for it ; but as the means of the Mission are limited and there are many expenses connected with the up-keep of a large establishment such as this, it would be impossible to provide regular work for more than a certain number. Were there anything like a thousand souls at Dunbrody the majority of them would be obliged, whenever a bad year came, to go elsewhere in search of work. For a considerable time now the Fathers have been paying wages amounting to £500 a year ; besides this they feed and clothe nearly a hundred children and support a few destitute families, for whom there is no one to earn the means of subsistence. When to this is added the sum required for the support of the Fathers and Brothers themselves and the annual cost of keeping up and developing the farm and garden work, as well as many other incidental but necessary expenses, it will not be difficult for the reader to believe that whatever money Dunbrody receives goes out almost as quickly as it comes in, and that it has often been for the one in charge of the institution a real difficulty to make both ends meet.

This brings us to the main source of Dunbrody's income—the farm, together with the vineyard and garden. From the very first it was the intention of the authorities that the mission should be self-supporting, and to this end the farm was stocked with cattle and ostriches, and farming operations were vigorously set on foot. Years of drought and the many other evils against which the Colonial farmer has to contend have greatly retarded the development of the farm ; yet in spite of all drawbacks a surprising amount of work has been done. The entire property—by far the greater portion of which is unfit for anything save stock rearing—is enclosed by an excellent wire fence, similar fences intersecting it and forming breeding camps for the birds, and larger enclosures for both cattle and ostriches. About eight years ago Dunbrody could boast of a herd of some 300 head of cattle, but two or three exceptionally dry seasons ensued, resulting in very heavy losses and reducing the number to 120, at about which figure it has remained ever since. Both cattle and ostriches are under the charge of one of the Brothers, who directs all farming operations, and we are able to state that the feathers of the Dunbrody birds are well known on the Port Elizabeth market.

Though, as has been said, the greater part of Dunbrody is more suitable for stock than for agriculture, there is a considerable area of rich soil which, if well watered, would undoubtedly yield first-class crops. Unfortunately the funds of the Mission have up to this been insufficient to cover the outlay necessary for any extensive irrigation scheme ; still a fair amount has been done on a small scale, and use is made of the water of the Sundays River and its tributary—the White River. On the left bank of the former stream stands a bucket pump and a two-and-a-half-horse power oil engine, by means of which water is all through the year pumped up and led on to land which has been carefully levelled. The White River frequently stops flowing for months and months, but more than one of its pools contain water except in times of especially severe drought. This stream flows close to the plateau on which the Mission buildings stand, and hard by it a deep well has been dug which remains full for months after the river has ceased to run. By this well is a powerful windmill, which pumps the water up into a large circular tank in front of the homestead, and thence it is led out into one of the gardens and vineyards. Further up the stream is a second bucket pump, which in favourable seasons is utilised to irrigate about twenty acres of arable land.

The bucket pump on the Sundays River is kept constantly at work winter and summer, and a supply of lucerne and forage sufficient for the horses, ostrich chicks, and a few of the milch cows is thus obtained. The oil engine, a small but very serviceable machine, stands higher up the river and irrigates a large fruit and vegetable garden and a young vineyard adjoining. This garden is under the special charge of one of the Brothers, who has reason to be proud of the appearance it usually presents. From it the Dunbrody community and the school children are supplied with vegetables all the year round ; barley and mealies are also grown here, while an abundance of apples and guavas is obtained from the fruit trees, and the strawberry beds yield goodly store of luscious berries in their season.

The vines, which adjoin this garden, have only been put into the ground during the last three winters, but the young stocks are healthy and vigorous, and promise an excellent harvest of grapes in the near future. The old vines, which number about 3,000 and have been bearing for some fifteen years, are in a garden close to the homestead and are irrigated by means of the windmill. Last summer fifteen hogsheads of wine were made from the crop of grapes gathered in this vineyard, and the vintage of the preceding year was even heavier. The wine is made by one of the Brothers, who received a special training at

the Constantia Government Farm, and is of excellent quality. A striking tribute to its excellence was paid this year by the late Dr. Macdonald, of Bayville, who within a fortnight of his death recommended it for an invalid in preference to any wine that could be purchased in the Colony. Most of the wine made at Dunbrody is sold, either bottled or in small casks, and helps to support the institution

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that for the Agricultural Show which was held on the Sundays River Valley Estate last March Dunbrody sent ten exhibits, and these carried off four first and two special prizes. The Secretary of the Agricultural Society of Port Elizabeth, who presided over the Show, publicly declared that the haanepoot grapes sent by Dunbrody were as fine as any he had seen grown in the Eastern Province.

Steytlerville.

During the ministry of the Rev. A. Smith the parish of Uitenhage extended in one direction beyond Baviaans Kloof, which now forms part of the division of Willowmore, and the reverend gentleman had at least once a year to visit this station for the purpose of holding services. For more than ten years his successor, the Rev. A. I. Steytler, had periodically to undertake the same long journey; but as the population increased he felt the absolute necessity of establishing a new congregation somewhere in this direction. Outside stations for holding services at least once a year were established all over this extensive parish, and one of these stations was at Verschfontein, the farm of Mr. C. J. Hayward, and another was Rietfontein, the farm of the late Mr. H. J. Senekal. It was from this latter farm, situated at the foot of the Great Winterhoek mountains, that the two reverend gentlemen proceeded partly on foot and partly on horseback over the mountains, and so reached Baviaanskloof.

"Wicked Sodom."

Between the farms Verschfontein, 107 miles, and Rietfontein, 127 miles from Uitenhage, was a Government quitrent farm called Doorschpoort, in extent 5,885 morgen, through a portion of which runs the Groot River, known as the Kariega where it runs through the district of Aberdeen, and as the Buffels River through the district of Murraysburg. This farm was in those days what is generally known as a "Gouvernements leg-plek" (a free Government farm), and was a regular resort for farmers of the nomadic class during a severe drought, as there was always plenty of water in the Groot River. The nomad who had first pitched his tent on the banks of the river generally considered himself the "baas," with the result that fearful quarrels ensued not only between the herdsmen but especially between their employers. At other times, again, when a "boolander" with his brandy wagon paid this particular spot a visit, the men had a "high old time" of it; and with no one to check the drinking and hilarity it is not difficult to guess what were the morals of these "rond trekkers" (nomads). In fact, Doorschpoort was not only known as the "Gouvernements leg-plek," but also as "Wicked Sodom."

Dutch Church Established.

The Rev. Mr. Steytler, on his periodical visits to Verschfontein and Rietfontein, gradually introduced his scheme of establishing a new congregation somewhere in these parts, and when he ultimately found the people willing and ready to support him the only difficulty was in finding a suitable spot for a village. Mr. C. J. Hayward, of Verschfontein, suggested the Government Outspan at Mantatees Kop, about four miles from his farm; but he soon found himself in a minority, as the

New Dutch Reformed Church, Steytlerville.

majority favoured the "Gouvernements leg-plek," Doorschpoort. Notices were sent round that a service would be held on a certain date in 1875 on the banks of the Groot River, at Doorschpoort. At this gathering it was resolved to buy Doorschpoort for £3,800 and establish a new Dutch Reformed congregation and lay out a village somewhere near where they were then assembled, and a rough outline of the boundaries of the new congregation was also agreed upon, to be submitted to the Presbytery of Albany for approval. At a subsequent meeting held in the beginning of 1875, at which were present the Rev. A. I. Steytler, of Uitenhage, and the Rev. G. W. Stegmann, of Adelaide, it was notified that the Presbytery of Albany had sanctioned the establishment of a new congregation, with the farm Doorschpoort as a centre. It was then resolved to begin at once with the building of a temporary church, the services having hitherto been held in a large tent, and, furthermore, that the meeting at once proceed to select a name for the new congregation and future village. All present agreed that they had thus far been successful, and that in selecting a name it would only be fair that such a name should be associated with the name of the Rev. Mr. Steytler, to mark their appreciation of the services rendered by him in establishing the new congregation. The first proposal was that the village should be called Steytlertown; another proposal was for Steytlerburg, and another for Steytlerdorp. The Rev. Mr. Stegmann then rose and expressed as his opinion that they all had failed in proposing the right name; for, to begin with, the first name proposed, viz., Steytlertown, savoured too much of "toon" (toe) and would not sound well; the same could be said of Steytlerburg, it savoured too much of Scotch; and as to Steytlerdorp, the "dorp" may become a "stad" (city) and the name would then have to be altered again to Steytlerstad. "No," remarked the reverend gentleman, "you are all wrong! Surely you all must admit that Mr. Steytler was all along determined that a new congregation shall be established and a village laid out here, and as his indomitable *will* has surmounted all difficulties, say now Steytler 'Wil' (Steytler Wills)," and by acclamation the proposal of the Rev. Mr. Stegmann was carried that the new village and congregation should be known from henceforth as Steytlerville.

On the 17th July, 1876, the first Kerkeraadsmeeting was held at Steytlerville in the newly-finished temporary church. At this meeting the Rev. A. I. Steytler presided, having been appointed the first Consulent by the Presbytery of Albany, and the following gentlemen were appointed members of the Kerkeraad, viz.:—H. J. Senekal, sen., and A. M. du Plessanie as Elders; and C. J.

THE PARSONAGE, STEYTLERVILLE.

Hayward, sen., J. Kilian, sen., T. Kleinhans, and C. W. de la Harpe as Deacons. From these gentlemen Mr. Elder H. J. Senekal was elected to represent the new congregation at the Synod of the D.R. Church to be held at Cape Town in October, 1876.

LAYING OUT THE TOWN.

At a meeting of the Kerkeraad held on the 3rd August, 1880, it was resolved that the services of Mr. B. Z. Stegmann, agent-at-law and auctioneer, of Willowmore, be secured to draw up certain "conditions of sale of erven" in the village of Steytlerville, similar to the conditions reserved by the Kerkeraad of Aberdeen, Tarkastad, Hanover, and other church villages, and, if necessary, to improve upon such conditions. Furthermore, Mr. Roselt, of Uitenhage, was engaged as surveyor to sub-divide the farm Doorschpoort into two portions, the one portion to the west and away from the river to be used as a farm, 3,000 morgen in extent, and the remaining portion, through which the Groot River flows, to be reserved for the village and commonage of Steytlerville—the commonage to be 2,000 morgen, and the remaining 885 morgen to be used for the survey of erven, but that Mr. Roselt be instructed to survey as a start only about 200 erven.

In September, 1880, these erven were offered for sale by public auction, and about 60 were sold, ranging in price from £80 to £30 an erf. Since then the village of Steytlerville has grown with rapid strides, so that it has now become an important town, beautifully situated at the foot of a range of mountains covered with high bush and on the banks of the Groot River, at the entrance of a poort. Nature has indeed favoured the place with

beautiful scenery and good soil, the only draw-back being the want of running water. The gardens are dependent on water from the wells, the result being that windmills of various makes are to be seen all over the town.

Portion of Main Street Steytlerville

The Town.

The town can boast of a beautiful Town Hall, with library and assembly room, a branch of the Standard Bank, a substantial public school building, Dutch Reformed parsonage, Episcopal Church, a Wesleyan Chapel, a native Congregational Church, and the new Duch Reformed Church now in course of construction at a cost of £15,000, a photo of which we give on page 156.

From 1876 to 1887 the Dutch Reformed congregation was served by a Consulent, *i.e.*, a minister of a neighbouring town, who visited the village once every three months during the Nachtmaal services.

Rev J. E. T. Weitz

On the 16th June, 1887, the congregation brought out its first call for a resident minister, which was accepted by the Rev J. E. T. Weitz, who, fresh from the Theological Seminary at Stellenbosch, was at the time officiating at Uitenhage after the resignation of the Rev. J. Hotmeyr. Mr. Weitz has grown up with the place, and has seen it develop from a small village into a town. He has identified himself with every effort made for the advancement of Steytlerville. He was the first Mayor of Steytlerville, and has again for the last five years occupied that position; has been chairman for the last seventeen years of the Public School Committee, and was at various times chairman, secretary, and treasurer of the Public Library. He took a great interest in the Agricultural Society, and was elected vice-president and subsequently president of that Society. Through his efforts one of the most beautiful churches in Cape Colony is now being built in the centre of the town and facing the Dutch Reformed parsonage, for which he personally collected from house to house throughout his parish, in two-and-a-half months, £7,500.

Business at Steytlerville.

The first storekeepers to establish business in Steytlerville were Messrs. C. W. H. de la Harpe, J. C. Bosman, John Ward, W. Richardson, and others. Messrs. Middleton Bros. have since taken over and largely extended the business of the late J. C. Bosman, and their store is now one of the largest and most up-to-date establishments in the Midlands.

Various Items.

Various attempts have been made to supply the village with water. A furrow has been dug from a weir in Groot River, and boring operations are being carried on

Two very successful agricultural shows have been held. The village forms the centre of a good ostrich and Angora goat country, and the entries at the two shows were 460 and 1,100 respectively.

During the last session of Parliament Steytlerville was declared a Fiscal Division, and the proclamation declaring the boundaries of the new division is daily expected. Steytlerville is 116 miles from Uitenhage, 56 miles from Willowmore, 36 miles from Jansenville, and 16 miles from Barroe Station. It is a very rich district and an important trading centre.

The beautiful koodoo is still found here, even on the commonage, and it is estimated that there must be fully 700 koodoos in the district.

The principal products of the district are mohair and ostrich feathers.

The town, on account of its picturesque situation and clean and stylish houses, makes a very favourable impression on the visitor. The only and very great drawback is that Government has not yet seen its way clear to span the Groot River with an iron bridge. During heavy rains the river is frequently impassable for many days, and the

risk in crossing it when the stream of water is at all strong is very great. It will indeed be a red-letter in the annals of Steytlerville when Parliament votes £25,000 for the construction of an iron bridge over the Groot River, at Steytlerville, so that the danger of crossing the stream will be a thing of the past.

Hard Times

The condition of the Uitenhage district was not materially altered even in 1879, for it would naturally take some time to recover from the effects of the great drought. Fortunately, however, rain was fairly constant until September, and large tracts of land were brought under cultivation. Then, after September, drought set in once more, and incessant gales of hot wind swept over the country, drying up the veld in an almost unprecedented manner, destroying by far the greater part of the crops. The resultant scarcity of green food was responsible for the deaths of great numbers of young ostriches, so that the unfortunate farmers had certainly cause for thinking, as some of them did, that the land was under a curse.

The work of railway extension, however, proceeded steadily, and in 1879 Uitenhage was linked with Graaff-Reinet, Grahamstown, and Middleton.

The Wool Trade.

This, as we have seen, was one of the staple industries of the Uitenhage division, and even to-day it is by no means one of the least. But in 1879 it had declined considerably, owing, of course, to the depletion of the flocks, the ravages of scab, and also to the fact that the minds of the farmers were mostly too much engrossed with the more remunerative occupation of ostrich farming to pay the same attention as before to wool growing.

In 1865 the Uitenhage district produced 767,789 lbs. of wool, and 666,729 lbs. in 1875—a decrease of 101,060 lbs., or 16·16 per cent. Washed wool fetched 1s. 3d. per lb., and unwashed 6d There were 337,198 woolled sheep in the district in 1865, and 248,676 in 1875—a decrease of 88,522. While there were only 6,019 "other sheep" in 1865, however, the returns show that there were 7,411 in 1875, and a good woolled sheep was worth £1 1s. and an Africander sheep about £1 5s.

Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles.

Although the Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles did not exist prior to the year 1892, yet there was a body of Volunteers in Uitenhage known as "No. 6 Company," and attached to Prince Alfred's Guard, whose headquarters were, and are, at Port Elizabeth. No. 6 Company P.A.G. was formed and members enrolled at Uitenhage on the 9th June, 1880, the strength being about 100 men all told; the officers were Capt. H. R. Thornton, Lieut. J. M. Thornton, 2nd Lieut. W. G. Back. The Prince Alfred's Guard at this time was under the command of Major G. R. Deare.

In September of the same year (1880), when No. 6 Company was formed, 200 men of the P.A.G. were called out for active service, 50 of whom had to be supplied by No. 6 Company. Lieut. J. M. Thornton was in command of the Uitenhage contingent, and Major Deare in command of the 200. This detachment embarked on the s.s. *Lapland*, in Algoa Bay, on the 25th September, 1880, and sailed for East London, where they disembarked and proceeded by rail to Queenstown, whence they marched to Aliwal North. From Aliwal North they marched through the Free State to Wepener, on the borders of Basutoland, where the force joined the column under Colonel Clark, the whole numbering about 2,000 men.

This column moved into Basutoland and took part in many engagements against the Basutos during the latter part of 1880 and the early part of 1881.

the detachment under Lieut. Thornton, after taking part in most of the engagements, returned to the Colony on the 19th February, 1881, and they were replaced by the remainder of the Company, who were sent up under the command of Lieut. W. G. Back.

The following list gives the names of all that are now left of the 100 in Uitenhage, and they are employed in the Loco. Workshops:— Major Thornton, Quarter-master Sergeant J. Kydd, Privates W. E. Jarvis, J. Coppard, T. Brophy, C. Durban, and W. Wahl. Private G. H. Chinery was not a member of No. 6 Company, but belonged to one of the Port Elizabeth companies of the P.A.G.

On the 30th October, 1882, Capt. H. R. Thornton was removed to Cape Town, and Lieut. J. M. Thornton was appointed captain in command of the Company. Mr. Cresswell Clark, the present Chief Traffic Manager, joined No. 6 Company as sub-lieutenant in January, 1883, and resigned in March, 1884 on being promoted to a captaincy in No. 3 Company, Port Elizabeth. Mr. N. M. Durrant, present Works Manager at Bloemfontein, was also a lieutenant in the corps, and joined in April, 1884. The members of No. 6. Company in the year 1889 agitated for separation and to be allowed to form themselves into a corps of their

own, and on this being disallowed they resigned in a body, after nearly nine years' service. Then for two years there was no volunteer corps in Uitenhage. In 1892 some of the old members of the Company, wishing to revive the movement, approached the members of Parliament, Dr. Vanes being strongly in evidence, with the result that the Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles was formed on the 4th February, 1892, with J. M Thornton as captain and Messrs. G. McGrath and H. J. Gibbon lieutenants. The strength of the corps was about 100 all told. The members tried to get a dark green uniform, but the Military Secretary being desirous of having all the Volunteers in red, the following uniform had to be adopted : Full dress, scarlet tunic with blue collar and cuffs, blue shoulder straps, white helmet, blue cloth trousers with scarlet stripe on outer seam. Undress : Blue serge tunic, Glengarry, blue cloth trousers with scarlet stripe.

In April, 1895, a military camp of instruction was held at Grahamstown, and the following corps were present : The P.A.G., U.V.R., 1st City Volunteers, and the Grahamstown Volunteer Artillery, under Major Nelson. Col. Southey, the Commandant of Volunteers, was in command of the combined forces.

It was in 1893 that Capt. Thornton conceived the idea of erecting the Drill Hall, so with that object in view he husbanded the finances of the corps from that time forward.

In April, 1894, a camp of instruction was held at Cradock, at which about 1,000 Volunteers attended, including the P.A.G., U.V.R., 1st City Volunteers, Kimberley Regiment, East London Volunteers, Queenstown Volunteers, and some others. This was the largest volunteer camp ever held outside the Cape Peninsula.

On the 9th November, 1894, Lieut. H. J. Gibbon, having failed to pass his examination within the prescribed period, resigned his commission.

On the 1st November, 1895, Capt. Thornton resigned his commission, and Lieut. McGrath was promoted to captain and took over command of the corps on the following day.

On the 12th October, 1896, Capt. McGrath resigned, and on the following day Mr. J. G. Mackenzie was gazetted captain, and took over command of the corps from that date.

During the year 1896 the erection of the Drill Hall was commenced, and in the following year it was completed. The Drill Hall cost about £2,000, half of which was paid out of the capitation grant and the other half was advanced by Government. The opening ceremony took place on the 22nd June, 1897.

On the 31st August, 1897, Capt. J. G. Mackenzie resigned, and on the following day Capt. J. M. Thornton was gazetted to take command of the corps.

In August, 1899, the uniform was changed from scarlet to khaki, and on the 10th October Lieut. Gent was promoted to captain.

On the 11th November, 1899, the U.V.R. were called out for active service, and Capt. Thornton not being allowed to go on account of his railway duties, Capt. Gent took command of the corps and was gazetted major on the 28th December.

The U.V.R. and the Anglo-Boer War.

A record of the services of the corps at this juncture will be of interest. The men were ordered to mobilise on the 11th November, 1899, and were placed on the lines of communication at Cookhouse and Witmoss tunnel. From thence they were sent to Cradock, and afterwards one company was sent to Rooispruit and two companies to Thebus, at that time occupied by a column under General Knox. Subsequently they were relieved by the 9th Battalion King's Royal Rifles and proceeded to Schoombie, ultimately being transferred to Colesberg. After the re-occupation of Colesberg by the British they at different times supplied detachments for duty at Steynsberg, Henning, and Kroomhoogte, as well as at Arundel and Rensburg.

Two companies were mounted and equipped at Cradock and sent forward to join General Clement's column at Arundel, under whom they fought their way to Bloemfontein, where they were incorporated with the First City Mounted Volunteers, the whole being re-named "Marshall's Horse." They were engaged in the general advance under General Ian Hamilton, taking part in all the engagements up to Pretoria and Diamond Hill, under Generals Hart and Barton, from the 27th July to the 19th December, 1900. They were also present at the re-capture of Potchefstroom and operations round Frederickstad, Krugersdorp, Magaliesberg Range, &c. A detachment escorted a convoy to Philippolis in November, 1900, and came in touch with the Boers, but, being outnumbered, had to retire on Colesberg Bridge to await reinforcements ; but before these arrived the enemy had disappeared. They escorted a convoy to Hamelfontein, where they engaged the enemy, being cut off by De Wet's force, and were relieved by General Plumer's column, who saved the position and allowed them to retire. An escort ac-

companied the Naval Brigade during the operations on the Orange River, and on the 11th March, 1901, the regiment made a forced march into the Orange River Colony to escort and assist the Royal Field Artillery to relieve Captain Worsley Taylor, who, with a detachment of the 4th K.O.R.L., was hemmed in between the hills of Boschfontein, ten miles on the other side of the river and to the right of Colesberg Bridge. The twenty-two miles to Botha's Drift were covered in full marching order in the space of seven hours. The Lancashires were relieved with small loss, after which the corps returned to Colesberg. The headquarters were then removed to Cookhouse, on the lines of communication.

The corps remained in the field until the cessation of hostilities, 30th June, 1902.

MAJOR J. M. THORNTON, V.D.

The following is the list of men belonging to the Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles who subsequently transferred to Marshall's Horse:—L. Back, G. Anderson, P. Channer, J. Cook, H. Roberts, H. Don, J. Stumke, W. Goodluck, F. W. Thorne, W. Kydd, W. J. Turner, A. Latham, A. McQueen, G. J. Baker, F. Schlemmer, G. Catton, E. Powell, A C. Hoare, H. Bryant, G. Peters, W. Roberts, J. A. Cowie, H. Kingston, J. H. Gibbons, B. Skiller, T. Kirkham, S. Watson, H. Tee, D. McPhail, G. Morris, W. Norton, W. H. Molton, J. Rossman, M. Leber, A. C. Timms, C. Penfold, R. Rabeau, J. Coonan, A. P. Tawse, J. W. Discombe, A. Moseley, J. Hoare, A. W. Tibbs, A. E. Wilson, A. W. Webber, R. Macpherson, J. Perring, W. T. Green, S. Briscoe, D. O. Narroway.

The Corps Re-organised.

When hostilities ceased, and the active service detachment was disbanded, the Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles were re-organised under Captain Thornton, who was gazetted Major on the 1st January, 1903. In April of that year Mr. Gee was appointed lieutenant, and advanced to the rank of captain in February, 1905, and on the same date Mr. F. C. Rose, who had been a captain in the active service detachment, was appointed lieutenant.

In January, 1906, the corps consisted of 145 men of all ranks, made up as follows:—Major Thornton, Captain Gee, Lieut. Rose; Regimental Sergt.-Major Condon, Quartermaster Sergt.-Major Bates, Colour Sergt.-Majors Handkins and Kydd, Sergeants Woodhead, Tetley, Walker, Murray, Reece, Moore, French, and Gibson; Corporals Summerton, Potter, Hopkins, Molton, Cock, Gill, Broadway, Neilson, Marsh, Saunders, Bridge, and Lobjoit (bugler); Lance-Corporals Hawkins, Johnson, Rule, Anderson, Lewis, and Norton; and Buglers Holton and Handkins.

The regimental band consists of 21 members, as follows:—Sergeant J. Henwood, cornet; Corporal J. Saunders, cornet; Lance-Corporal T. Lewis, cornet; Privates J. Chinnery, bombardon; Meiring, bass; J. Jewell, horn; H. Slack, horn; W. Molton, clarionet; Millbank, cornet; J. Rens, big drum; Honorary Members: A. Bremner, bombardon; A. Chittenden, euphonium; C. Shrewsbury, baritone; Walker, trombone; G. Meyer, horn; Asplin, baritone; H. Erich, clarionet; H. Jennings, clarionet; J. Enrich, cornet; M. Fish, cornet; F. Henwood, side drum.

The 3rd Yeomanry.

When, during the term of office of the Hon. John Gordon Sprigg's Ministry in 1878, the Disarmament Act was passed, it was felt that with the limited number of Colonial troops then existing there may be difficulty in enforcing the provisions of the Act, especially as the volunteer corps consisted of infantry only, it was decided to raise three regiments of cavalry. This was done, and the regiments were named the 1st Yeomanry, with head-quarters at Cape Town; the 2nd Yeomanry, with head-quarters at East London; and the 3rd Yeomanry, having its head-quarters at Uitenhage. The commandants of the three regiments were Colonels Brabant, Southey, and Minto respectively. As this is a history of Uitenhage only, we must necessarily confine our remarks to the 3rd Yeomanry, and more particularly to those troops raised in the Uitenhage division. In all the regiment consisted of five troops, namely, A Troop, Uitenhage; B Troop, Humansdorp; C Troop, Graaff-Reinet; D Troop, Somerset East; and E Troop, Thornhill. Of these A, B, and E Troops consisted solely of Uitenhage district men.

The terms of enlistment were for three years, each man to provide his own horse, with the following rates of daily pay :—Captains 15s., lieutenants 11s., sergeant-majors 9s., sergeants 8s., corporals 7s., and troopers 6s.

The uniform was blue with buff facings, and the men were armed with carbine, revolver, and sword.

There was no difficulty in getting men to join this force, and within a very few days of the notice being issued that men were required the ranks were filled, practically all the recruits being young farmers who could ride well and were adepts in the use of the rifle, and together they formed as fine a body of fighters as could well be desired.

A Troop (Uitenhage) was officered by Captain R. Smith and Lieutenants Bremner and W. Catton; B, or the "Tiger Troop" (Humansdorp), Capt. A. L. Chiappini and Lieutenants H. Maynier and C. Hudson; E Troop (Thornhill), Capt. G. D. Smith and Lieutenants P. R. Heugh and C. J. van Niekerk.

We have said that the Yeomanry formed as fine a body of fighters as could well be desired; and they very soon proved themselves. Before the various troops were well formed—before, in fact, they had had an opportunity of being drilled, or were uniformed or armed—they were called out for active service. They immediately mobilised at Uitenhage and marched to Grahamstown, and thence to Fort Beaufort, where they were quartered for about ten days. In the meantime they had received their arms and uniforms, and attended drill when occasion offered. Thence they were ordered to Queenstown, and finally to Aliwal North. On arrival at Aliwal the wisdom of the Government in raising the Yeomanry was apparent. It was notified that a section of the Basutos under Chief Morosi had refused to pay taxes, and had practically declared war by attacking the town of Quithing, where they had burned down the Magistrate's residence, the mission house, and other buildings, and were, in fact, in a state of rebellion.

Service in Morosi's Country.

The Yeomanry were at once ordered off to quell this disturbance, and they performed their duty to some purpose, for they quickly overran the whole district, capturing all the stock and driving the rebels before them. The natives all made for Morosi's Mountain, the chief's stronghold, which they soon rendered practically impregnable. At this time the Yeomanry was the only force engaged in these operations. But the surrender of the insurgents was then but a question of time, for the Yeomanry besieged the Mountain, rendering it impossible for the enemy to break away, although on one occasion they made a desperate attempt to do so, which, although happily frustrated, proved disastrous to our men, for several of the Humansdorp Troop were assegaied whilst sleeping in their tents when the enemy made their midnight raid on the camp at Quithing. Reference is made to this incident in our article on Humansdorp. Soon afterwards the C.M.R. relieved the Yeomanry, who returned to their homes, leaving nine of their number in soldiers' graves in Basutoland. The siege was maintained for some time longer, when the Mountain was stormed by the C.M.R. and some Volunteers, Morosi being killed. And so this campaign ended.

At this point we would pay a tribute to the men who comprised the Yeomanry for the good work they did—a tribute which the then Government failed to pay to the most deserving body of men that ever carried arms in their behalf. The Government never really appreciated their services, which were gladly rendered immediately it became known that men were wanted. Many well-to-do young farmers joined, who, if they had studied their own interests alone, would have remained at home and looked after their farms. And they, practically alone, succeeded in denuding the country of stock and driving the natives together to the mountain and hemming them in, and this in the face of continuous fighting and great privations. They were for months without tents, and the only shelter they had from the weather was what they could find behind boulders or bushes. They were eight months in Morosi's country.

The Basuto Campaign.

The Yeomanry were not allowed to remain long at their homes, for war broke out generally in Basutoland in the middle of 1880, the cause being a refusal to obey the mandate to disarm, and the men were again called out for service in the field. On this occasion they were nine months in the field, taking part in over twenty engagements. In this war, of our local men Capt. Bremner and several troopers were killed

On their return home the men subscribed among themselves and erected the handsome granite obelisk that now stands near the Cannon Street entrance to Magennis Park in memory of their fallen comrades, whose names are inscribed thereon. The widow of Captain Bremner was also presented with a house by the comrades and other friends of her late husband.

The Riebeek College

One of the best known educational institutions in the Eastern Province is the Riebeek College for girls, and, since its foundation more than quarter of a century ago, it has continued to hold a prominent position among the principal schools in Cape Colony. Up to 1877 the facilities afforded in Uitenhage for the better education of girls were decidedly meagre on the whole. Either the young ladies had to go to some private school —and there were many of them in Uitenhage—or they had to attend the mixed school over which Mr. John Gibson presided. But that gentleman, "grand old man" though he was, had long since fallen behind the educational requirements of the day. He possessed a violent and uncertain temper, and the parents of those girls who were placed under his control grew more and more dissatisfied with the results. Several were removed each quarter and sent to other schools, of which that kept by the Misses Elliott was perhaps the largest. And so matters drifted on until the position became intolerable. Then it was that the Dutch Reformed Church stepped into the breach ; and although it was inevitable that such a step must eventually be taken by some public body, the gratitude of parents was not only due but was readily and heartily accorded to the Rev. A. I. Steytler, who was responsible for the line of action adopted by the Church over whose destinies he presided.

Consequently in 1877 the first step was taken in the direction of establishing the Riebeek College, and from then until now the Dutch Reformed Church has been actively interested in its welfare. It must not be lost sight of that the school was not at the very beginning of its career a church school proper, as so many people imagine. It was only after Mr. Steytler found it necessary to convert the establishment into a Dutch Reformed Church school that it became a denominational institution. The congregation then became the sub-guarantors. In 1882 things were beginning to go wrong, and financial aid from Government was applied for. As a result of this appeal a grant of £80 per annum was forthcoming, and the Kerkeraad was allowed to nominate the whole of the Committee—which was to consist of five. The only conditions were that two of them were not to be members of the Kerkeraad, but were to be chosen from the public. The first two elected under these conditions were the late Mr. Edward Philpott, C.C. & R.M., and the late Hon. John Tudhope. Subsequently the Committee was increased by two members.

In 1884 the condition of the school became hopeless. It was about £500 in debt, there were only thirty-nine scholars on the roll, and an unfortunate selection of two teachers—one of whom had been in a lunatic asylum and was not quite sane at the time of her appointment, while the other turned out to be a maniac and had to be deprived of her liberty—did not tend to improve matters. Mr. Steytler was succeeded by the Rev. J. H. Hofmeyr, who, working conscientiously and honestly in the interests of education, decided to have the school brought under the direction of the Educational Department in order to obtain grants and make the institution a financial success.

He had some correspondence with Sir Langham Dale, then Superintendent-General of Education, on the subject, and at a public meeting held in the Town Hall the principle of equal representation was laid down by the Superintendent-General of Education himself. In this the public agreed, and four members of the Committee were therefore elected by the Kerkeraad and four by the general public.

Until 1894 the school was held in the block of buildings on the town side of Cannon Street —*i.e.*, where the boarding department now is—but in that year the matter of increased accommodation became more urgent, and a new school building was decided upon, the erection of which was left to the School Building Committee, which was a sub-committee of the Kerkeraad. The corner-stone of

RIEBEEK COLLEGE, UITENHAGE.

the new building was laid by Mrs. Pienaar on the 1st June, 1896, and the ceremony took the form of a most interesting public function. The Education Department granted a general holiday to all the schools in town, and most of the children, to the number of nearly 1,000, took part in the proceedings. There were 200 girls of the Riebeek College, all dressed in white and wearing the

College colours, about 200 boys from the Muir Academy, the pupils of the Dolley Memorial and Industrial Schools, and the private schools also sent their quota.

The formal opening of the building took place on the 16th December, 1896, the actual opening ceremony being performed by Mrs. Frederick H. Lange, the first lady principal of the school, who took office in 1877

The structure is a very handsome one, occupying a space of 155 feet by 85 feet, and contains the great hall, 70 feet by 30 feet, seven large class rooms, six music rooms, and private rooms for the lady principal and the committee, besides cloak room, lavatories, corridors, &c.

The building cost about £5,000, Mr. J. F. Carton being the contractor.

The following are the numbers of pupils on the roll at various periods, and it will be seen from these figures how steadily the institution has grown: There were 120 pupils in 1888, 172 in 1889, 186 in 1890, 175 in 1891, 183 in 1892, 211 in 1895, 209 in 1896, 241 in 1897, 262 in 1899, over 300 in 1900, and 340 to-day.

The Principals of the College.

The first head mistress of the Riebeek College was Miss Hearson (afterwards Mrs. F. H. Lange), who filled that post from 1877 to 1880. At one

Miss E. L. Y. Brown

time there were only six pupils on the roll, but this number speedily rose, and when Miss E. L. Y. Brown took over the principalship at the end of 1880, or rather at the beginning of 1881, there were 60 pupils there. In eight years this number had doubled, and to-day it is nearly six times as great. Miss Brown continued in office until 1900, and during her twenty years' connection with the institution no less than 1,500 pupils passed through her hands. She retired in 1900, after having accomplished an infinite amount of good work, and is now living in London. She was succeeded by Miss Houliston, who remained there until 1905, when Miss Pollard was appointed head mistress.

A Parliamentary Enquiry.

In the spring of 1900 an enquiry was ordered by the Legislative Council to be held respecting the management of certain public schools of first and second-class grades, whereon the Boards of Managers were assigned to members of a church as such. The committee consisted of the Hons. Sir H. Stockenstrom, Messrs. Pretorius, Van Rhyn, Maasdorp, De Smidt, Bradfield, Neething, Herholdt, and Wilmot (Chairman), and the first meeting was held in the House of Parliament in September, 1900. The Riebeek College was the first selected for investigation, and after a considerable amount of evidence had been taken regarding certain anomalies in connection with the amount of control exercised over the College (a public and undenominational institution) by the Kerkeraad, the Committee recommended that it was "desirable in the public interest that the Riebeek College should be taken out of the abnormal position it occupied and be placed under the regulations affecting undenominational schools." The Committee also drew attention to Dr. Muir's evidence, which showed that there was an existing contract entered into in the year 1885, when the school was changed from the denominational to undenominational system.

Nothing was done, however, until 1906, when under the School Board Act the position was altogether changed.

The Muir High School.

Educational matters concerning boys' schools have been frequently touched upon in this work, the last reference to the subject being on page 117, which brings us up to 1855. Matters proceeded quietly for several years, and the Government School was perhaps an average type of its class. Many are the curious stories told of Mr. Gibson, the head-master, and as time rolled on it would scarcely appear that he kept pace with the growing educational requirements

of the day. The old-fashioned plan of drilling knowledge into boys by the aid of the "tawse"—or strap—was very largely resorted to, and the methods of instruction to which Mr. Gibson clung speedily became antiquated even for those days. Another school was started in opposition, and this was conducted by the Rev. Dr. J. Templeton. This was the genesis of the Muir Academy, and it was known as the Proprietary School. It was carried on in the block now known as the Crown Hotel. The present billiard room there was at that time the assembly room. Dr. J. Templeton was head-master, Mr. Sam Mitchell being his assistant. In 1867 Dr. Templeton removed to Grahamstown, and was succeeded by Mr. Brice, who retained that position for several years. He conducted the school in what is now the Riebeek Boarding House until 1875, when the new building was erected. Dr. Templeton died in 1891 in the Addo Bush under painful circumstances while on his honeymoon. The school succeeded in a way, but education here was in an unsatisfactory condition for a long time. At length an attempt was made to reconstruct the entire system upon a proper and a business-like basis. An undenominational school was started under the auspices of a Board of Management, and in 1874 Mr. Cecil H. Buckland, the secretary, applied to the Commissioners for two pieces of land situate on what is known as College Hill. The first was 12 1-10th morgen in extent; the second was 1½ morgen, and was bounded by Cannon Street, Park Avenue, Dale Street, and on the west by the erf exchanged by the English Church authorities in return for their grant of land for the construction of Bishop Street.

The object for which these pieces of ground were required was the erection of a suitable building to be used in perpetuity as a public undenominational school, to be vested either in the Civil Commissioner of Uitenhage for the time being or in such other way as the Government might direct. The smaller plot, which was 1½ morgen in extent, was to be used as a site for the school building itself and for the playground, and an absolute grant of this plot was requisite. The larger piece would be sold and the proceeds applied to the erection of the establishment.

This application was supported by the Commissioners, and three months later a letter was received from Government stating that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to sanction the transfer of the property in terms of the petition. This was a most liberal grant on the part of the Commissioners, and one would go far before he found one equally generous. The necessary diagrams were drawn out in June, and delivered to the Commissioner of Crown Lands by Mr. Julius Mosel. The title deed was signed by Sir Henry Barkly on the 25th of September, 1874, and shortly afterwards the lands had been sold and the streets in that neighbourhood constructed by the Board.

In April, 1875, the Town Clerk reported that the School Committee had not thought it necessary to ask the permission of the Council to name the land given to them, nor to name the streets there, but had selected such names as they thought proper, calling the site of the school "College Hill," and the adjoining thoroughfares College Street, Barkly Street, etc., etc. The Commissioners, without taking the names of the streets into consideration, resolved that the name of the hill upon which the school was to be built be allowed to remain College Hill.

The building and dwelling-house were erected in 1875 at a cost of £3,000, the contractor being Mr. Mackay, of Port Elizabeth. Mr. Brice was the first head-master, and he retained that position for some years. But the school was by no means a success under his *regime*, and instead of progressing it steadily lost ground. The discipline was lax in the extreme, the boys did not distinguish themselves at the University Examinations, and many of them were removed from the school altogether; and it became a second-class institution.

Mr. Brice was succeeded by the Rev. G. Y. Jeffreys, who had in the meantime been conducting a small school with some success. But when he took over the reins of the Muir Academy the institution failed to improve with the rapidity that was anticipated. Children were taken away and sent to other schools, and the Committee scarcely knew what step to adopt next. At length the guarantors had to meet a call, and this quicky brought matters to a head.

Then in 1886 the Divisional Council stepped into the breach, and with two town nominees (the Rev. D. J. Pienaar and Dr. A. B. Vanes) assumed entire control of the Academy. Mr. Mitchell, of the Normal School, was appointed head-master in the year 1886, and a complete change for the better immediately took place. The discipline of the boys had always been lax in previous years, and this was the first matter to receive Mr. Mitchell's attention. In a short time he had accomplished wonders, and step by step the school began to recover lost ground. At this time there was an idea prevalent that the reason

for the Academy's making such a poor appearance at the University examinations was that the boys themselves were too stupid to do anything brilliant; but Mr. Mitchell quickly disproved this. They had to *work*, and the result was that within an incredibly short space of time the name of the Muir stood high in the lists of examination successes. To cap this, one boy actually came out first in the Colony in the Elementary! This acted as a spur, and as an encouragement to everybody concerned, and the next improvement was in the direction of entertainments. Hitherto the townspeople had, with a certain amount of justification, looked upon the Muir boys as an undisciplined rabble. The palm for accomplishments was unquestioningly awarded to the Riebeek College; but before he had been long in Uitenhage Mr. Mitchell invited the public to the usual prize distribution, and to an entertainment. People were sceptical about the entertainment, but they were astounded when it began. The discipline was perfect. The scholars rose noiselessly at a sign from the head-master, and went through various songs, recitations, and evolutions with a precision that caused the utmost astonishment amongst those who had for many years been convinced that nothing could be done with such boys as those who attended the Academy. From this time the success of the institution was assured, the registers speedily filled, and everything went with a gratifying swing until Mr. Mitchell was appointed School Inspector—a position he still fills with the greatest credit.

Muir High School, Uitenhage.

Mr. Scott was then appointed, but he resigned in 1895, and in the same year Mr. John Sutherland, M.A., accepted the position offered him. This gentleman has retained it since then, and under his capable and efficient *regime* the Academy has made rapid strides. It always stands high on the University Pass and Honours Lists, and on several occasions has secured the first place in Cape Colony. In 1904 a new building, of which we give a photograph, was erected, the old one being altered and retained as a boarding establishment. By Dr. Muir's suggestion the name of the institution was altered in 1904 from Muir Academy to Muir High School. There are many schemes on the *tapis*, and when they are accomplished facts there can be no doubt that the Muir High School will be one of the finest educational institutions in South Africa. Recently a gymnasium and swimming bath have been added to the establishment. The pupils on the roll to-day number 278.

The Corner Turned.

During the year 1880 rains were frequent and general throughout the district, fair crops were reaped, stock was in good condition, and remunerative prices were realised. It was evident that the wheel of fortune was beginning to turn in a favourable direction once more—after a lapse of seven years of grinding adversity.

Ostrich farming increased rapidly, and an "Ostrich Farming Company" was established under the brightest prospects on some farms in the Winterhoek. These were admirably adapted for the purpose, and shares in the venture were greatly in demand at a considerable premium.

The population, too, had increased, and a large number of houses were built, many of them of a superior class, and ornaments to the town.

Wages in 1880 were high, as may be gathered from a brief perusal of the following figures:—European farm overseers and head shepherds were receiving £10 a month, while natives filling similar positions received £8. The average for the Colony was £3 16s. and £2 respectively.

As farm servants or cattle herds, Europeans received £2 10s. per month, natives £1 10s., the average for the Colony being £1 6s. and 17s. respectively. European day labourers were paid 4s. a day, with food, and natives 3s., the average being 2s. 8d. and 1s. 10d. respectively.

As to domestic servants, Europeans readily obtained £3, European females £2 per month, with board and lodging, although the averages for the Colony were only £2 8s. and £1 6s. Coloured domestic servants, on the other hand, received £2 per month (males) and £1 10s. (females), including board and lodging, while the averages were £1 7s. and 16s.

Skilled labour was also well paid, European carpenters getting 11s. a day (the highest wage

paid to this class in the Colony, the average being 8s. 9d.) ; masons and bricklayers received 12s.—also the highest figure in the Cape returns, the average being only 8s. 10d. Mechanics obtained 13s., the average being 9s. 2d., painters 10s. (average 7s. 9d.), wagon makers 13s. (average 9s. 6d.), tanners 11s. (average 7s. 8d.), while tailors and shoemakers received 10s., the average for the Colony being 8s. 2d. The monthly rent of a labourer's cottage was, however, £3 a month, the general average being £1 4s.

Congregational Church.

On the 19th day of August, in year 1881, a meeting was held in the Divisional Council room to consider the question of establishing a United Congregational Church in Uitenhage. The following seven gentlemen were present at this meeting:—The Rev. Thos. J. Paterson, of the L.M.S. Mission, Rose Lane; Messrs. T. W. Gubb, T. McEwen, J. Young, C. Robertshaw, P. Thomson, and H. Dean.

At the request of this gathering a church was formed on the congregational basis, and named the "United Church." The meetings of this new body were held in the Divisional Council room, and within a month of its formation the Rev. Geo. Y. Jeffreys was called to the pastorate of the Church.

In May, 1882, the erection of a church building was already under discussion, and it was agreed to purchase the site on which the church now stands. On the above-mentioned date fifty persons pledged themselves to sums the total of which amounted to £500. From this time on till the date April 29th, 1884, the Committee was for the most part engaged in accepting, rejecting, and modifying plans and specifications for the new church.

The above is a red-letter date in the history of Congregationalism in this town, for then a procession, headed by all the civic dignitaries, wended its way from the Divisional Council Chamber to witness John Tudhope, Esq., M.L.A., the chairman of the Finance Committee, well and truly lay the foundation stone of the new church.

The building was opened for public worship on the 28th September, 1884, when the Rev. Robert Johnston, of the Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, conducted the services. The building itself, which is of an unpretentious character, was built from considerably modified plans drawn by Mr. S. Stent, architect, Grahamstown. The modifications were the result of a strongly-worded desire to keep the cost under £2,000, and the same desire finally reduced the sitting capacity from three to two hundred sittings. The work was carried out by the firm of Grant & Downie, whose tender was £1,799.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UITENHAGE

During the earlier years of the church's history the minister and the treasurer were too much in evidence. How to maintain the financial position was a problem frequently left for their solution

In the year 1886 Mr. Jeffreys was appointed head-master of the Undenominational Public School, and owing to the decrease in the congregation caused by many removals, and consequent reduction in salary owing to the same cause, he felt it incumbent upon him to resign the charge. Though ceasing his connection with the church as minister, Mr. Jeffreys nevertheless during the whole of his residence in Uitenhage remained a consistent member and a faithful worker for the church.

In the month of July, 1886, the Rev. Aubrey L. Matson was called to the pastorate. Mr. Matson was distinguished for his lecturing tours, conducted for the purpose of increasing the church finances. It appears that money was thereby raised, but the price paid for his itinerant lectureship was more than the fellowship could bear, for soon we find Mr. Matson combining in himself several incompatible offices, among them both treasurership and secretaryship.

In the year 1888 Mr. Matson was appointed lecturer in connection with the Independent Order of Good Templars, and on taking over this work he resigned the pastorate.

During the earlier part of the year 1888, and under Mr. Matson's ministry, a considerable secession took place. This section of the church held services for a time in the Town Hall under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Cowper Grey. There are many indications that this portion of the fellowship made a strenuous attempt to do things

decently and in order. Its first important act was to take over from the Congregational Union of South Africa the building hitherto known as the "United Church."

It thereupon drafted and agreed to a somewhat elaborate constitution, and decided to be henceforth known as the Congregational Church, Uitenhage. This step became necessary, for already the Congregational Union had become owners of the church property, and had for some time aided the church with generous financial help. This definite act of corporate union was decided on in January of the year 1889.

In March of this same year Dr. Grey was called to the pastorate of the church. It now appeared as if the church, under the leadership of Dr. Grey, was about to experience a period of prosperity. In the active work of the church the names of not a few familiar figures in the civic life of the town appear, among them being H. W. Inggs, Mayor of the town; Peter Thomson, Town Clerk; George Macpherson, Councillor; Dr. Fraser, School Inspector; and Mr. Mitchell, head master of the present Muir College. This spirit of hopefulness was doomed to have no larger realisation, for in May of the year 1891 we find that Dr. Grey resigned his connection as minister.

In December, 1891, the Rev. F. J. Ecclestone, who had for three months filled the vacancy, was invited to accept the pastorate of the church. The slow growth of the church may be gathered from the fact that there were only 68 names attached to this call, though it represented the unanimous desire of the church.

On the 6th of July, 1892, Mr. Ecclestone, who had received a call to the church at Burghersdorp, resigned his charge. Considerable progress must have been made during Mr. Ecclestone's short stay in the town, for on the 2nd November, 1892, a call was presented to the Rev. G. P. Ferguson, M.A., to which there were attached no less than 102 names.

The first seven years of Mr. Ferguson's pastorate were years of uninterrupted progress. Soon the whole debt on the church was paid off; a vestry was built, a chancel for the organ and a pipe organ erected, and a church manse built on Cannon Hill. Mr. Ferguson would be the first to acknowledge that not a little of this progress was due to the splendid enthusiasm and well-known generosity of Mr. M. M. Steytler, at whose sole charge the vestry and chancel were built and the organ erected.

And then followed a time of anxiety and sorrow to both church and minister. In January of the year 1900 it became evident that Mr. Ferguson's health would for a time at least render him unfit for the active work of the ministry.

In March, 1902, the 21st anniversary of the founding of the church was held, and as a voyage to England had not secured to the minister the hoped-for strength to continue his work he resigned his charge in April of that year.

In September of the year 1902 the Rev. William Angus, of Mill Hill, Blackburn, Lancashire, accepted the call to the church. During Mr. Angus' pastorate there has been the most encouraging signs of success. In the year 1901 the idea of a new hall had been moted, and during the whole period of Mr. Ferguson's illness the idea had been bearing fruit under the fostering care of Mr. Steytler, who had himself collected all the funds. The foundation stone of this hall was laid by Mrs. M. M. Steytler, and it was opened for use in June of the same year.

Rev. William Angus.

There had been much discussion about the uses to which this hall would be put. Not a few had asserted that the time had not come for the church to be saddled with such an expensive adjunct to its work. Mr. Angus set the minds of all at rest on this score by evolving a net work of institutions under the general name "Church Guild." In connection with this organisation there were soon more than 250 members, with over a a hundred workers. The Guild gatherings occupied every night in the week during the winter session, and its ramifications included sections devoted to literary, musical, and social gatherings, a Bible class, temperance society, field club, a flower mission, and a flourishing gymnasium.

The Guild also includes educational classes for the study of such subjects as photography, Dutch, Kafir, shorthand, and ambulance work.

The social section of the Guild was fortunate

in securing for its recreation centre a full-sized, and also a three-quarter-sized, billiard table, the gifts respectively of Mrs. M. M. Steytler and Dr. Boberg.

As early as the opening of the year 1904 it became evident that the seating capacity of the church was not adequate to the needs of the congregation. All the sittings were let, and the arrangement that seat-holders should be in their places five minutes before the hour for commencing the service did not give general satisfaction. It was therefore decided to extend the building so as to accommodate at least 160 more worshippers. This work was commenced in April, 1905, and the church re-opened for worship on Sunday, 1st October, 1905.

As the work proceeded it became evident that more than extension was intended. The building has undergone complete transformation, and does credit to the generosity and sacrifice of those who longed to see the House of God a place of beauty.

The Banks. In spite of the depression in trade and the general stagnation which existed in 1881, the statements of the Standard Bank and the Bank of Africa were indicative of progress rather than of depression. Uitenhage had evidently not been backward in its endeavours to augment its business. In 1868 the Standard was the only bank in the district, and to illustrate the strides in business taken during the twelve years we lay before the reader a comparison of the chief items :—

1868.		1881—both banks.	
Bills under discount.....	£10,000	£55,400	(increase of £45,400)
Fixed deposits	4,500	109,700	(increase of 105,200)
Floating deposits.....	12,000	39,200	(increase of 27,300)

From this it appears that the discounts had increased four times, floating balances had more than doubled, and the fixed deposits were then more than twenty-four times the amount they were in 1868. This looked like progress !

In December, 1881, the deposits fixed and floating in the two banks totalled £149,869, viz., Standard Bank £133,290, and Bank of Africa £15,599.

In 1882, however, they figured at £144,146, viz., Standard Bank £130,440 and Bank of Africa £13,706, the falling off being £5,723. But at this time great numbers of buildings were springing up all over the town, and idle and previously unproductive town commonage land had been converted into small and productive private holdings at considerable expense, and this no doubt accounted in a great measure for the deficiency. The Colony, too, was passing through a crisis, and the fact that bills under discount showed a reduction of £14,600 indicates that the business of the banks had not diminished but had been conducted with greater caution. Even in hard times, however, Uitenhage has always held her own, and has progressed. During the year 1885 buildings to the value of £22,300 were erected.

"Sleepy Hollow." A Retrospect. Any work dealing with the history of Uitenhage would be incomplete without some reference to the *sobriquet* by which the town was known for many years—Sleepy Hollow, to wit. There can be no doubt that at one time the appellation was deserved, for the place was admittedly among the quietest in the Colony. But it was a case of giving a dog a bad name, for long after Uitenhage had awakened and had become one of the leading centres in the Cape the opprobrious epithet still clung to it. In the early eighties it was considered one of the smartest and most original things in the world to call Uitenhage "Sleepy Hollow," and the more the joke was repeated the more original its perpetrators seemed to consider it. There are even now some profound wits who cling to the *mot* with an affection truly classical.

But if the title was undeserved in the eighties it is still more inappropriate to-day. At the time of which we speak there were within the precincts of the town the ten largest woolwashing establishments in the Colony ; and here, too, was the then largest engineering establishment in the Colony, furnishing employment for over two hundred and fifty skilled artizans (there are now over eleven hundred employes), besides surveyors, civil engineers, draughtsmen, &c. Here were executed all of the repairs and much of the construction of the rolling-stock for nearly 500 miles of railway. The agriculturists kept hundreds of acres of the most fertile soil in a high state of cultivation, supplying even in the times of fiercest drought the vegetable, fruit, and floral demands of every spot within reach by rail, from Port Elizabeth to Cradock, Graaff-Reinet, Grahamstown, etc. Three newspapers—the *Uitenhage Times*, the *Uitenhage Chronicle*, and the *Uitenhage Advertiser*—were published regularly at offices where some of the neatest printing in the Colony was turned out. The fixed property had doubled in value in eight years, without taking into account the Government and other public buildings, or the numerous cottages built by the Railway Department for their workmen. So that

if so far back as 1882 Uitenhage could afford to let the very wide-awake ones enjoy their ponderous old joke about "Sleepy Hollow," which was first dragged into existence, so far as we can trace it, somewhere about the late thirties, she can do so with all the better grace to-day.

The Zwart Ruggens Farmers' Association

This society was inaugurated at a meeting held at Mr J. B. Evans' residence, Rietfontein, on Wednesday, the 18th July, 1883, and the objects of the Association were stated to be the full discussion of all matters affecting the interests of farmers, whether political or otherwise, and the free interchange of ideas on the best methods employed in the various branches of farming in Cape Colony. The society was modelled on the lines laid down in the rules of the Upper Albany Farmers' Association. These, in fact, were adopted as they stood, with one or two slight modifications to suit the district. The meetings were to be held quarterly, and four members had power to summon a special meeting. Thirty-five members were enrolled at this meeting, and the officers elected for the year were Messrs. J. B. Evans, president and treasurer; J. H. Featherstone, vice-president; E. Hannan, secretary.

The Great Winterhoek Farmers' Association

This useful institution was finally inaugurated at a meeting held in Steytlerville on the 15th September, 1883. The purposes of the association were stated by Mr. Bosman, who was voted to the chair, to be the advancement of all farming interests, and to assist the industrial farmer to bring to justice thieves or vagabonds, and to aid him in other ways.

The following were the first officers appointed: J. Kirkman, F.C., president; C. J. Hayward, vice-president; N. J. Hayward, treasurer; and G. Groote, secretary. Twenty-five members were enrolled at this meeting, and the inauguration of the society was celebrated by a dinner.

VAN STAADEN'S PASS

Part IX.—The Decade, 1884–1893.

Thornhill Church.

A pretty little church was built in the Van Staadens Ward, near Thornhill, in 1884, at a cost of £200. The ground was given by Mr. Isaac Newton, and a local committee were chiefly responsible for raising the funds. On St. Thomas' Day (21st December), 1884, the opening service and induction of the Rev. Arthur G. Raynier to this special charge took place. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. J. Batts, of Port Elizabeth, and during its course Messrs. George D. Smith and Isaac Newton, on behalf of the congregation, formally received their pastor, whose work during the past five months they referred to in the most favourable terms. The attendance was good, there being nearly 120 present, all residing in the neighbourhood, with the exception of some half-dozen visitors from Port Elizabeth. The service concluded with the singing of Jackson's *Te Deum*, and since then the little church has proved a blessing to the parishioners of Thornhill.

A Famous Baboon.

Most people, not only in South Africa but also in Great Britain, the Colonies, and on the Continent, have heard of the famous working baboon of Uitenhage. This statement may appear at first sight to be a far-fetched one, but it is not so, for paragraphs relating to this animal persistently went the rounds of the British news and illustrated periodical press, and whenever this occurs it is but a step to the continent and to our sister colonies. From the year 1884 passengers who reached Uitenhage by train were spectators of a sight that would have gladdened the hearts of Professor Darwin and the members of the British Association. The signal man at the station, James Wide by name, had the misfortune to lose both his legs in an accident near Kleinpoort, and his powers of locomotion were therefore hampered. Consequently he trained a large baboon to assist him in the discharge of his duties as pointsman. This animal would fit the trolley on to the line in the most ingenious manner, harness a large collie dog to it, and assist the latter in the work of moving the vehicle, with their master seated upon it, along the rails as far as the cottage where they dwelt. The baboon would also perform sundry offices for Mr. James Wide with the fidelity of a man Friday; but the cleverest thing he did was to work the lever which set the signals. This he did with an imitation of humanity which was as wonderful as it was ludicrous. He put down the lever, looked round to see that the correct signal was up, and then turned to the train, gravely watching its approach, and catching the various offerings thrown to him by the passengers. He knew the difference between the "home" and the "distance" signals, and also the engine whistles; and although he was always under the eye of his master, he never made a mistake or required telling twice. "Jacko" was one of the sights of Uitenhage for many years, and his astonishing feats of intelligence was the wonder of all who witnessed them. Both the animals eventually died violent deaths.

The Progress of Uitenhage.

With the close of the year 1884 we come the end of the eighth decade, and in order to see clearly the progress of each decade we take the following statistics. In 1864 the valuation of fixed property was £112,000, in 1874 it was £172,633, and in 1884 it was nearly treble what it was in 1864, and nearly double the valuation for 1874—£325,000. So far as revenue was concerned, the net income was £674 in 1864, £1,412 in 1874, and £4,966 in 1883. Regarding salaries of Municipal officers, they amounted to £439 in 1864, to £518 in 1874, and £1,115 10s. in 1884. These figures show us the progress of each decade, and we now give the statistics for the intermediate years, as they will show more clearly the rate of progress, and when the place took a start, as well as helping us trace the cause of such progress.

Year.	Valuation.	Net Revenue.	Total Salaries.	Proportion of salaries to revenue in the £
1864....	£112,000	£674 12 3	£439 12 4	13s. 6d
1869....	112,000	775 0 0	443 0 0	11 5
1874....	172,633	1,412 0 0	518 0 0	7 4
1878....	233,335	3,088 0 0	944 0 0	5 7
1883....	292,843	4,966 0 0	1,515 10 0	4 6
1884....	320,181			

These figures are very suggestive, but perhaps some further details may be pointed out.

The railway to Port Elizabeth was opened in September, 1875, and from that moment progress seems to have set in. In the year 1878 a valuation, made two years and three months after the event, shows that the ratable property had risen from £172,033 to £233,335, an increase of £60,902, or nearly one-third, and this without taking any of the workshops, stations, or cottages erected by the Railway Department into consideration. From 1874 until 1884 the increase was from £174,633 to £325,000, showing an advance of £52,367, or within £20,266 of double the amount.

There is no doubt that it is always difficult to forecast what will be the exact effect of such a revolutionary agent as a railway upon a community. Judging from speeches delivered, letters written and reminiscences preserved, there were those amongst the greatest thinkers of Uitenhage's former inhabitants who thought the railway would ruin the place ; there were those who held strongly opposed views, and had it not been for the latter the railway would not have come when it did. But though the railway doubled the amount of assessable property, and probably the population also, thus advancing the progress of the community generally, it does not follow that it benefited the community in its individual members. Less does it follow that it benefited every individual member of the community, as so many thought at the time it would. Collective prosperity and progress very often mean more individual sacrifice than is seen upon the surface. The groans of those stricken down in the battle are drowned in the shouts of the victorious. The individual husbandman who, full of strong faith in the future harvest, sowed the seed of coming prosperity, may be shunted into obscurity and poverty by the rush of reapers. And there were instances in this community of those who suffered from the unfairness of fate, so to speak, where persons who did most to prevent the railway coming were the greatest gainers from it, while those who did most to forward it were in many cases great losers. These reflections are the natural outcome of the figures and facts before us, for it is difficult for those who were not here when the railway arrived to understand how its advent brought prosperity to the town and adversity to the individuals.

Then in 1877 the old rags of a common Municipality were thrown aside, and Uitenhage blossomed forth as a full-fledged Corporation, with Mayor, Town Councillors, corporation seal, etc. The Town Hall was built during the decade, and the Railway Workshops were erected. The schools also made great strides about this time, and, in short, it is from then that the town may date its real start. The figures we have quoted are alone sufficient to prove the truth of this assertion, and we question whether any centre in the Colony could show as much progress within the same period.

The Sundays River Valley.

There are few more beautiful or fertile spots in the Eastern Districts than the Sundays River Valley, and in order to reach the heart of it one has only to travel to Bluecliff Station, some forty-three miles from Port Elizabeth and twenty-two from Uitenhage. The name of the late James Somers Kirkwood will ever be associated with this portion of our district, and we shall refer to this gentleman more fully later on.

The Valley itself is about twenty miles long, and stretches from the "ebb and flow" to Korhaans Drift. It is connected with Port Elizabeth by two lines of railway—Bluecliff Station on the Midland being not far from the upper end, and Commando Kraal (Addo), on the north-eastern, being close to the town portion. As between these two stations the railway may be said to run nearly parallel with the valley, no farmer is more than from four to ten miles from a station.

The soil of the Valley is alluvial deposit, rich in organic matter and fine as flour. With water and solar heat it produces a semi-tropical vegetation. It needs little or no manure, for the flood water led over the lands fertilises them. An old resident (Mr. Piet H. Muller, of Malmaison) stated to the Irrigation Commission held in April, 1883, that the soil was too rich for manures, and that since taking up his abode in the Valley in 1856 he had never once given his land manure. Notwithstanding this, he had seen mealie stalks growing to a height of seventeen feet ! Another advantage possessed by the farmers is the fact that they have access to three different kinds of veld—(*i*) the rich karroo soil in the Valley ; (*ii*) the grass veld on the Zuurberg ; and (*iii*) the brakbosch veld on the Uitenhage side, where cattle feed in the winter time.

The part most suited to cattle and ostriches is watered by Bezuidenhout's River, and the Midland Railway runs through its greatest length. It is some 15,000 acres in extent. The middle portion is just on 20,000 acres, or over thirty square miles, and may be described as forest, bush, and grass country. It is well watered by rivers and perma-

ment springs. In the Valley crops can be raised without irrigation, as in other parts of the Zuurberg, and in the kloofs are yellowwood trees several feet in diameter. Sneezewood and olive wood poles are in thousands. The irrigation area of the Valley measures about 39,000 acres or 60 square miles. Some 15,000 or 16,000 acres can be brought under water, the rich alluvial soil varying from twenty to forty-four feet in depth. The river winds through the plains for fifteen miles, and gives them a water frontage of about thirty miles.

The Sundays River Valley was originally parcelled out between 1824 and 1834 to certain parties who were known as the "grantee farmers," and with the usual wisdom and foresight which always characterised the actions of the old trekkers they led the water from the river at the best available spots. Indeed Mr. Gamble, the civil engineer who examined the Valley most minutely in the eighties, recommended these two places as the most suitable for the irrigation scheme which was then under consideration. The ancient furrows and weirs are still visible. The grantee farmers carried on agricultural farming with great success, but of course they did not possess the markets that are now available. A grist mill was worked at Malmaison for many years.

As time passed by the population of the Valley slowly increased, and bit by bit vacant Crown land was purchased and cleared. It was estimated by Mr. Kirkwood in 1884 that as the cost of clearing a morgen of ground in Oudtshoorn cost from £2 10s. to £5 per morgen, the cost of cleaning, ploughing, levelling, and preparing for tillage at Sundays River Valley would be about the same.

The Valley affords exceptional facilities for irrigation, and there are few spots in the Eastern Province more admirably adapted for extensive works of this nature. The Sundays River and its numerous tributaries drain an immense area of country, as is evidenced by the depth and frequency of its floods, and as the Valley lies just to the south of the Zuurberg it receives the immediate drainage which the river brings with it after twenty-five or thirty miles passage through the mountains, when parts higher up are suffering from drought. Again, the fall of the ground and of the river from the upper to the lower ends of the estate average ten feet per mile, and this affords facilities for irrigation in every direction by gravitation, and also provides a driving power for machinery for sawing, grinding, pumping, etc.

Having now dealt with the earlier history, such as it is, and the potentialities of the Valley, we come to the time when Mr. Kirkwood endeavoured to float a Limited Liability Company for its purchase and development. This took place in the beginning of 1884. Up to this period the place had been in the hands of a few farmers, who were merely looked upon by others as having secured an excellent *locale* for their operations, but no attempt had yet been made to exploit the place on a large scale.

John Somers Kirkwood, however, was a man of big ideas, and he had long realised the enormous possibilities of the Valley. He was originally head of the auctioneering firm of Kirkwood, Marks & Co., Port Elizabeth, and had always been known as a keen and clever business man. In 1877 the Legislature passed an Irrigation Act (No. 8) which was designed to encourage schemes of irrigation and immigration, and offered much to associated enterprise and self-help. The idea was to assist such groups of farmers who united for the purpose of forming what were to be known as "irrigation districts," but those who inhabited the Valley could not be persuaded to take adventage of the Act in any shape or form, for it was difficult to find men equally circumstanced, willing to associate for an object of this kind, common to them all in its effects, without some mistrust on their part. This was the main hindrance to the usefulness of the Act, and Mr. Kirkwood, finding that his efforts to persuade the Sundays River Valley people to combine were utterly useless, determined to solve the problem of exploiting the place on a large scale by adopting the Joint Stock Company principle. He went quickly to work, and between 1877 and 1883 he purchased at various times, in his own name, no less than twenty-one blocks, the aggregate area of which was 35,280 morgen 491½ square roods (over 74,000 acres, or 115½ square miles). Twelve of these were bought from farmers and others, and nine from Government, while there were also twelve homesteads standing on the ground. This tract of country was large enough to come within the provisions of the Act mentioned above, and once the lands which it was projected to include in the block having been purchased, the estate was complete. Nothing now remained to be done but to float the Company; but this was the rock that wrecked Mr. Kirkwood's career and eventually caused his death. A provisional committee was formed, and consisted of Messrs. Trenly Birch, Jeremiah Edwards, the Hon. J. Geard (ex-M.L.C.), Joseph Walker (ex-M.L.A.), Wm. A. Oxenham, and Charles Lovemore, all of Port Elizabeth; J. S. Kirkwood, of Bluecliff, J. Pullen,

of Alexandria district, and Donald Macdonald, C.B., of London ; Mr. Charles Cowen was the temporary secretary.

The capital was to be £60,000, divided into an equal number of £1 shares, the first issue to consist of 45,000 shares and a reserve of 15,000. The price of the estate to the Company was fixed at £50,000, but these were already mortgaged to the extent of £15,000, which the Company was to take over as part of the purchase price, the balance of £35,000 to be paid to the vendor in that number of fully paid up shares, while the £10,000 to be subscribed by the public was for working capital and payment of transfer expenses. This amount would effect only a partial development of the alluvial area, and further irrigation works could be undertaken with Government aid under the Act of 1877. The profits were to come in the first instance from the annual revenue, and secondly out of the very considerable difference between the original cost of a pastoral acre with the cost of expenditure for improvement added, and the market value of the same acre when so improved. When a thousand acres were under irrigation their capital value at the rate of ten years' purchase on the rental (at £5 per acre per annum) would be worth £50,000, and so on with each succeeding area so improved until the maximum capability was reached. The rents at this time (1884) only amounted to £500 per annum, but these were to be increased very considerably. The shareholders' security lay in the land and in the improvements made thereon.

All this sounded very well and very convincing, but the shares were never taken up. The lists closed on the 21st of January, 1884, and the results were thoroughly discouraging. The fact of the matter was that the public had been thoroughly captivated by the ostrich farming boom, and as many who are still living in Uitenhage to-day know to their cost, ostrich farming companies were springing up all over the district, shares in which were applied for several times over. Mr. Kirkwood's prospectus scarcely mentioned ostriches at all, and ostriches were the only things that people would touch. None of the companies succeeded, by the way, and most of them turned out to be financial failures. With the chances of growing cereals, tobacco, and vines on a large scale nobody troubled himself, and consequently the "Sundays River Land and Irrigation Company, Limited," fell to the ground in the most dismal fashion. There can be no doubt that if it had been named the "Sundays River Ostrich Farming Company, Ltd.," the shares would have rapidly been at a premium. But agriculture and irrigation were at a discount in those days, and this magnificent tract of country was allowed to pass into the hands of the bondholders—the Guardian Company of Port Elizabeth. Mr. Kirkwood never quite recovered from the disappointment : he became insolvent, and shortly afterwards passed away. To this day his friends aver that he literally died of a broken heart.

The Guardian Company managed the estate for several years, and as time passed by it grew more and more prosperous. The dams constructed from time to time in the river bed, however, were never satisfactory, and they were frequently washed away. Disputes over water rights were of frequent occurrence, but, on the whole, the farmers there did well, and still do well.

About three years ago the Guardian Company disposed of their rights to the Strath-Somers Estate Company for, we believe, £25,000. The late Dr. Macdonald was the first chairman of this Company, and at his death Mr. J. Whyte was elected in his place, Mr. Cruickshanks being secretary. Although at the time of going to press transfer had not been made to the new Company, they took over control of the estate immediately after the purchase negociations were concluded, and under their *regime* considerable improvement in the irrigation works have been made, and the holders have now a sufficiency of water, which they never had before. These improvements have been so extensive that the value of the land has been doubled during the past three years.

There is one drawback to this flourishing settlement, and that is the difficulty of access from and to the railway. We understand that this will be remedied when the present owners obtain transfer of the property, as it is anticipated they will construct a light railway to the main line, and a bridge over the Sundays River.

The village of Bayville is a thriving one, and it undoubtedly has a future before it. Many are of the opinion that this part of the district will in the distant future be separated from Uitenhage and become a unit by itself. The population is steadily growing, and the farmers are a thrifty, hard-working community. The shows that are held in Bayville at regular intervals are always characterised by that success which is achieved by strenuous labour only, and, in short, the future history of Bayville and of the Sundays River Valley, when it comes to be written, will be a record of indomitable perseverance on the part of the people and of steady expansion.

By the generosity of the Rev. Arthur S. W Moore, late curate of St. Katharine's, Uitenhage, a sum amounting to £1,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Anglicans there for the erection of a church to be named "All Saints." There have already been several vexatious delays in connection with the building of it, but it has been commenced, and will be completed about the end of April, 1906, and when the edifice is erected it will prove a great blessing to the inhabitants. Services are held there once a month at present.

We cannot conclude this history of the Sundays River Valley without briefly referring to the fact that chiefly through the instrumentality of the late Dr. Macdonald, one of the most prominent farmers there, a movement was recently started to alter the somewhat clumsy name of "Sundays River Valley" to the more euphonious one of Strath Somers—a graceful tribute to the memory of one who did so much for this beautiful portion of our district—James Somers Kirkwood, to wit.

The Wool Trade in 1885

As showing the enormous quantities of wool washed in Uitenhage in 1885, the following table will be interesting :—March 5,448 bales, April 8,226 bales, May 10,955 bales, June 15,146 bales. The total weight of this was 6,342 tons, 7 cwt., 21 lbs., and produced a revenue to the railway of £6,774 6s. 10d. for these four months.

Twenty Years Ago.

Uitenhage, twenty years ago, was in the throes of an agitation to retain the Workshops here, and a Vigilance Committee was formed for the purpose of watching the interests of the town in that direction. The existence of the Committee was recognised by the Town Council, and both bodies worked loyally together with the one common object of doing all in their power to prevent the removal of the Loco. Shops. As showing the importance of these shops to the town, the following details, compiled by the Vigilance Committee for the edification of Colonel Schermbrucker, the then Commissioner, will be interesting :—

The number of workmen and apprentices employed in the locomotive and carriage departments was 280 ; including officers and clerks the number was over 300, apportioned as follows : Locomotive 200, carriage 100. The average monthly wages of the two departments was £2,000. The total number of men, women, and children connected with the Railway Workshops was over 700 viz., men 300, women 140, children 260.

The estimated cost of the workshop building and machinery was £240,000, the consumption of coal 1,500 tons per annum.

The number of houses built by the Government for employees was 22, the ratable value being £9,600. The number of houses built by employees was 19, rated at £8,500. The ratable value of property built in consequence of the existence of the Workshops was £11,000. The area of ground covered by the works was about 26 acres. This was granted by the Municipality, and its estimated value was £2,000. The value of the land given by the Municipality to the Railway Company was £7,000. The value of land sold to build the Town Hall was about £7,600, the whole of which ground was cultivated.

The amount borrowed to improve the water service in consequence of increased population was £12,500. The value of immovable property in Uitenhage in 1874 (previous to the erection of the Workshops) was £172,653, and in 1885 it had risen to £324,041—exclusive of workshops, churches, schools, etc.

The number of houses—exclusive of shops and stores—was 306 in 1874 ; in 1885 it was 625.

The number of coloured people, *i.e.*, washerwomen, domestic servants, etc., depending on the railway employees was estimated at 200.

The estimated amount expended by the Corporation between 1878 and 1885 to improve the town was £30,000, apportioned as follows : Water service £12,500 ; streets, planting, etc., £10,000 ; Town Hall £7,500.

The amount of direct income to the Corporation from the Workshops was £625, and the indirect revenue from the same source consisted of rates and water rates from £12,000 worth of of property.

So far as could be obtained, the religious census of the people connected with the Workshops was :—

Church of England	130
Roman Catholic	100
Wesleyan	60
United Church	50
Dutch Reformed	15
Independent (native)	10
Salvation Army	10
Plymouth Brethren	21

The number of children connected with the Shops attending school was estimated at 100, the number having materially diminished in conse-

quence of the rumoured removal. The reduction or removal of the Workshops would seriously affect the revenues of the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, and the United (Congregational and Presbyterian) Churches, while the reduction or removal of the carriage department would involve the Roman Catholic School in an annual loss of over £60, and would necessitate the closing of the Marist Brothers' College, which had been established at a cost of over £2,500.

Various lodges, *i.e.*, Masonic, Oddfellows, Foresters, Good Templars, etc., had been established, and valuable property erected, all of which would be seriously crippled by the removal.

Colonel Schermbrucker was surprised when all these details were shown to him and when he saw for himself how greatly the prosperity of Uitenhage depended upon the Workshops, and, as everybody knows, they were not removed.

Willow Dam.

This picturesque dam was constructed by Inspector Fairbanks many years ago. Prior to this the site of the dam was a level green sward, a favourite place for picnics in dry weather, but in wet seasons it formed the outlet for surplus water. In those days the main road ran several yards lower down. Mr. Fairbanks constructed the present road, and to avoid the steep dip he carried an embankment across the declivity, thus damming up the outlet. Willows were then planted on the embankment, and the sight of their bright, drooping verdure waving over the clear sparkling water has cheered many a weary traveller across the arid country between Graaff-Reinet and Uitenhage. It was almost the first glimpse of the cool, limpid element he got after leaving the Gem, and was a sort of earnest of the beautiful and well watered town he was just about to enter. So clear and beautiful was the water that not only travellers from the desert but residents of and visitors to Uitenhage used to lave and swim in it. Many a team of horses and cattle have refreshed themselves at its margin, and it was the spot made for by outgoing and incoming wagons. "Some years ago," says the *Uitenhage Times*, "when the public mind was occupied with the storage of water, an engineer was sent to take the levels and otherwise test the capability of that spot. It was found that by raising the embankment a few feet higher the water might be thrown back so as to form a lake several miles in extent, and that from this level might be irrigated, at a trifling cost, all the lower lands of the town."

But nothing came of it, and Willow Dam remains to-day one of the most beautiful spots in Uitenhage.

Uitenhage Vineyard Company.

The Uitenhage Vineyard Company was started about the year 1886 by Messrs. T. W. Gubb, of Uitenhage, and W. Hume, of Port Elizabeth, for the purpose of testing the soil and climate of Uitenhage for the growth of grapes and the production of light wines. They commenced on some plots of grounds situated on the north-eastern slopes of Cannon Hill, and planted a large number of vines. Being satisfied with results in the early stages of the undertaking, and desiring to extend its operations, they induced some gentlemen in Port Elizabeth to join them, and a small private company was formed, which bought up the adjoining plots of ground extending to the Graaff-Reinet Road, making altogether about 100 acres of excellent land. Here for three or four years the preparation of the ground and planting of vines was proceeded with. The first wine was made about 1890, and consisted chiefly of "Stein," a wine of hock character, and also some claret made from grapes from vines which originally come from the celebrated "Chateau Lafiti" vineyard. Some good brandy was also distilled. These wines turned out to be of excellent quality. About the year 1895 one of the gentlemen who had taken the greatest interest in the management of the concern having left the country, the others decided to sell the property to Messrs. Smith Bros., the well-known fruit growers and nurserymen of Uitenhage. These gentlemen abandoned the making of wine and gradually transformed the place into a fruit-growing and horticultural farm, rooting out the great bulk of the vines. Their success has been great, and the vineyard is now one of the show places of Uitenhage. It seems a pity, however, that the production of wine was given up, as we have been assured by experts that the wines made were of unique character, and would probably have created a large demand. At the time of the abandonment of the scheme the number of vines exceeded 100,000.

The Post Office

In 1888 the Native School was removed from the premises at the corner of Market and Caledon Streets, and that building was converted into a neat edifice for the postal and telegraphic services. The new native school in Rose Lane was completed in 1889 and occupied for the first time on the 1st of March in that year. It was built by the Council, who

were desirous of obtaining possession of the building above mentioned, and converting it to greater use than a school. This old school room was used as a post office until the present Public Buildings were erected in 1898.

Local Mining Companies.

Several mining and other companies have been at various times started in Uitenhage, but none of them proved so successful as that which is now known to investors in South African shares throughout the world as

GLYNN'S LYDENBURG.

This is a gold mine situate near Lydenburg, in the Transvaal. The late Mr. James Niven, who in his life time was a well known and highly respected townsman, happened in 1889 to discover, more or less accidentally, splendid auriferous prospects on the farm owned by a man named Glynn, and, having obtained the requisite mining rights from this individual, he returned to Uitenhage and transferred them to a local syndicate, of which Mr. W. H. Dolley was chairman and Dr. A. B. Vanes secretary and treasurer. The first meetings were held in the conservatory attached to the doctor's residence in Caledon Street, and the company was floated with a capital of £5,000, divided into 200 shares of £25 each. It was then known as Niven's Syndicate. Port Elizabeth was invited to join, and some of the Bay people did so, but at that time they were in what may be called the throes of the Johannesburg mania, and those who took shares in the syndicate did not find them sufficiently gaudy to suit their tastes, and they attempted to wreck the whole venture by selling out at a critical period. The concern was substantial enough, but it was not sufficiently gaudy. The local members of the syndicate, however, invested heavily in the shares thus discarded, and to day the Company has a nominal capital of £167,000, its value being estimated at about £350,000. This year a dividend of 25 per cent. on the former amount was declared.

A PROMINENT UITENHAGER.

Mr. Niven died suddenly in 1894, and was at the time of his death one of the oldest and most prominent residents of Uitenhage. He came here in the early sixties, and having secured a woolwashing site on the river he conducted a series of experiments in woolwashing machinery, which culminated in 1865 in his patenting a process which was soon adopted by people starting the industry at a distance. For years he carried on woolwashing at the drift which bears his name, and eventually selling out he became Managing Director of the Despatch Woolwashing Co. The hardships he endured while prospecting at the mine which afterwards turned out so successfully brought on an ailment to which he succumbed in 1894; but when the enterprise was ripe he proceeded to England and purchased all the machinery for the working of the mine. He served the community for many years as a Divisional Councillor and Municipal Commissioner.

THE MALMANI QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE.

This Company was also started in Uitenhage by Messrs. Mills and Mohr and Drs. Cuffe and Vanes, and its object was to work some quicksilver mines near Zeerust, the rights of which had been obtained by the syndicate above mentioned. Negotiations were opened with an English company, and an expert named Ogden was sent out from London. This company was on the point of taking the mine over for a sum approaching half a million (£20 shares were finding a market at £300) when something went wrong and the entire project collapsed.

THE MAITLAND MINES.

Reference will be found to the Maitland Mines on page 121, but since that article was written we have become possessed of supplementary details of this mining venture, which may well be inserted here.

After two unsuccessful attempts in Port Elizabeth, the Maitland Mines were floated in Kimberley in 1890 with a capital of £25,000, Mr. Grove being the managing director. The Kimberley directors were Messrs. Rubinow (chairman), J. J. Michau, C. A. Blackbeard, D. Skirving, and W. Haddock (secretary). Sir Charles Metcalfe had already visited the property, and had spoken very highly of its prospects. There was certainly ground for hope, as an assay of 6½ lbs. of dressed ore had shown 24 oz. 2 dwts. silver and 54 per cent. of metallic lead, to which 10 per cent. could be added for unsaved metal. The purchase price of the farm (Buffelsfontein) was £6,500, on which there was a mortgage of £4,000, which could be transfered to the shareholders and allowed to remain on the farm. The property, worth double the money, was purchased on these terms in January, 1890, and the office of managing director having been abolished, Mr. Cadwell was appointed manager. The mines were formally opened on

the 27th of September, 1890, Mrs. Seaman, proprietress of the farm, naming the five-stamp battery "Violet."

The machinery consisted of a 16-horse-power engine, a 20-horse-power boiler, two patent griggers, two ore dressers, a centrifugal pump, four tanks and strip cleaners. The crushing power was 15 tons per diem.

But, alas! "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley," and despite its splendid prospects the Maitland Mine failed to realise the anticipations of those who expected so much from it. Whether it was properly conducted is an open question, but it is very unlikely that the property will remain idle much longer. It is to be hoped that the next syndicate will manage it better, for the minerals are undoubtedly there. It is said by some of the older inhabitants that for some reason the original owners of the farm erected buildings over the main lode, and perhaps the hint would be worth taking. Speaking in 1890, Sir Charles Metcalfe said: "If silver—lead can be smelted on the mines to pay, there is an unlimited supply of iron and lime for flux, and if iron is found in abundance, does it not occur to one that Uitenhage is destined to become a great mining centre? Already the Government has workshops there, but the iron is brought from Home. It is premature to predict a great future for that place, but if the Maitland Mine prove as rich in iron as it is in galena, and if Balmoral or any other estate carries a good seam of coal, I believe Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth will have every reason to support their local industries and make important mining centres of what are now towns requiring a little more sinew. I hope the residents down there will ponder over their chances and take a good look round both for coal and for petroleum. It would be impossible to say how deep the galena lode extends, or how far it carries along in length, but from what we saw we certainly believe there is an immense body of stuff only waiting to be mined. I think I am right when I say that a Uitenhage sub-editor was the genius who first praised the long-deserted mines, and that after losing at Springfield over gold prospecting. It is admitted by most men that the galena will pay handsomely, but I believe that gold in paying quantities is out of the question."

About this time Mr. Hancock brought into town several specimens of galena from Palmiet River, which, on being assayed, were found to contain a considerable percentage of silver, namely, from twenty to thirty ounces per ton. But the main lode could not be discovered, and the lumps were only found scattered sparsely about the veld. The formation of the country is slate and sandstone, with quartz scattered through it, and these reefs strongly resemble the auriferous quartz reefs of Australia, and are what are called "float reefs."

There can be no doubt whatever that there are large quantities of galena (lead and silver ore) in the Uitenhage district, and as the price is steadily mounting up, and is now half as much again as it was fifteen years ago, its discovery in workable quantities will have a very great effect upon the fortunes of the district

Other Syndicates.

Several other companies have been started here, and some met with varying success. The Eastern Province Railway Company, Ltd., did well for a time, but the venture was eventually absorbed by the Government. With the Silk and Cotton Syndicates we have already dealt in a previous portion of this book. The only company of any pretensions floated here in recent years was the Cordes Anti-Friction Co., Ltd. This was to exploit an invention which would save a coal expenditure of 85 per cent. in steamships by the application of ball bearings to the propellor. But although considerable sums were invested in it locally, the company died a natural death, and those who had placed their money in the concern found themselves poorer but wiser men before many months had elapsed.

The Dolley Memorial School.

Uitenhage is one of the chief educational centres in Cape Colony. It has laid claim to this title for many years past, and there are now no fewer than six large and flourishing schools in the town, with an unusual number of private establishments as well. The Dolley Memorial, as a scholastic institution, has more than realised the expectations of those who were responsible for its foundation, and although it has only been in existence since 1890, its establishment has proved a veritable blessing to many hundreds of children who could not otherwise have enjoyed the advantage of a thorough grounding in the rudiments of knowledge.

The need of such a school had long been felt by the poorer section of the community, and in a town like Uitenhage, where so many of the inhabitants are of the working class, that section is by no means an inconsiderable one. In 1889, however, the late Mr. John Dolley and Dr. Vanes

took a kind of educational census of the town and found that there were over a hundred children of a school going age who were receiving no education at all, owing to their parents being unable to afford more than a few pence per week for this purpose. As these children could not therefore attend any of the existing institutions, the idea of establishing a school for the education of boys and girls thus unfortunately circumstanced was originated, and it proved to be the pioneer of its class in Cape Colony.

It was to be a branch of the Public School, and, contrary to the general rule in Uitenhage, children of both sexes were to be admitted But against its successful working was the total absence of funds, and this proved to be the initial difficulty with which the founders had to contend.

Once the idea had been started, however, it was taken up energetically by a number of those who were interested in education, and applications for grants were made to the Town and Divisional Councils. These bodies readily agreed to contribute £70 per annum between them, and when the Government undertook to supplement the sum thus obtained the difficulty was overcome.

The School Opened.

A Committee of Management was then elected, and consisted of the Mayor (Mr. J. Magennis), Dr. A. B. Vanes, the Rev. D. J. Pienaar, Mr. E. Dobson (ex-Mayor), Mr. H. W. Inggs (ex-Mayor), Messrs. J. F. Dolley, T. Nicholson, and A. Fowler.

By the efforts of these gentlemen a teacher (Mr. Cyril G. Miller) was appointed, and the school was opened on Monday, 20th January, 1890, in a room at the corner of Bishop and Caledon Streets, where twenty-five years previously had been established the proprietary school. This room is now part of the Crown Hotel, and is used as a store for barrels and bottles. On the opening day there were present forty-three children—18 girls and 25 boys. The circumstances of each of these children were carefully inquired into by the Committee, and they were only admitted as scholars after it was shown that they were suitable. At first the fee for each child was twopence per week, but after a time it was found that the school could not be run financially on these terms, and the fee was slightly increased. Many free scholars, however, were admitted.

Steady Progress.

The number of scholars steadily increased during the succeeding six months, and at the breaking up for the winter vacation there were sixty-nine on the books—25 girls and 44 boys. Three months later—in September—the work became too much for one teacher, and Miss Edith Gray was appointed assistant. At the end of the first year the number of pupils had increased by nearly 120 per cent., for there were then 92 on the registers—33 girls and 59 boys.

Better Accommodation Secured.

It now became plainly evident to the Committee that better accommodation was needed for the successful carrying out of the school, and every effort was made to obtain a room both larger and more adapted to the requirements, but these efforts were unsuccessful for some time. In the meantime the number of scholars continued to increase, and something had to be done to meet the demand for space, as the little room in which the school was built was becoming too overcrowded altogether.

At last, in September, 1891 (fifteen months after the opening of the school) the Committee hired a room in Cuyler Street, which had once been used as a Rink. The numbers had now swelled to 103—43 girls and 60 boys. The change of room, however, was an unfortunate one in some respects, for the roof was of galvanised iron, and the heat transmitted through it in the summer was almost intolerable, and caused the greatest discomfort to teachers and pupils alike.

At the commencement of this quarter Miss Gray resigned, and was succeeded by Miss D. Basson, who in turn was succeeded by Miss Wide. It was found to be impossible to carry on the work of the school in the Rink, owing to the great heat, and the Committee decided to move it to a building at the back of the Rink which fortunately possessed a ceiling. This, however, was the only advantage over the Rink it possessed. It was thoroughly cleaned and put in passable repair, but it was not free from serious disadvantages, one of which was a cement floor, which rendered the place cold and unhealthy in winter.

The New Building.

During the latter months of 1891 and the commencement of 1892 unceasing efforts had been made by the Committee to induce the Education Department to provide a suitable school room, and towards the end of 1892 a sum of £500 was obtained, £250 of which was a grant from Government, and the other half a loan, guaranteed by the Divisional Council.

When this sum of money was obtained another difficulty presented itself—the want of a building site on which to erect a new room. Mr. John Dolley, sen., who was Mayor when the idea of establishing such a school was first mooted, had died suddenly, and the institution was named after him. No convenient site for the proposed building being available, Messrs. W. H. and J. F. Dolley offered the committee the plot of ground upon which the present building stands, and this was accepted. With funds and site in hand, tenders were called for, and that of Mr. Gillespie, contractor of this town, for £740, was accepted. Building commenced in April, and the opening ceremony took place a few months later in 1892. The dimensions are : Length 74 feet, breadth 30 feet, with two class rooms each 14 feet by 12 feet.

The Divisional Council, as we have said, had generously given a grant in aid of the institution at the time of its foundation. Some years later the legality of this action was questioned, and the further payment of the money stopped. The matter came up in Parliament in 1894, when Dr. Vanes brought in a Bill to legalise such expenditure by Divisional Councils. The Bill was lost by two votes only, the whole of the Bond voting against it, and one or two Progressives. Mr. Rhodes, however, was Premier at the time, and on the defeat of the Bill he gave its promoter a gentle hint to tell the Divisional Council of Uitenhage to pay out the grant as before. "If there is any more bother about it," he added with characteristic impetuosity, "I'll refund the amount out of my own pocket. But you will find everything will be all right." And so it proved. Later on (in 1894) a house was erected for the principal next to the school. The success of the establishment is undoubtedly due to the indefatigable efforts of the headmaster, Mr. Cyril G. Miller, who has filled that position since the school was started.

Kleinpoort.

For a considerable period there was a large portion of the Uitenhage district situated equidistant from the then existent courts of justice, and the farmers living in this belt suffered much inconvenience by the length of time it took to reach either of these courts. The more remote portions of the district had the privilege of coming under the jurisdiction of the periodical court at Steytlerville, then in the Willowmore district, but there were still considerable numbers who had to travel to Uitenhage, and, so far as justice was concerned, these residents were very disadvantageously situated. The establishment of a periodical court in some central part was therefore considered to be a boon worth agitating for, and a petition was sent to the Colonial Secretary in the early part of 1890 recommending Kleinpoort as a suitable locality. Mr. Stewart, C.C. & R.M. of Uitenhage, strongly supported it, and the result was that in the year 1890 Mr. Stewart took his seat for the first time on the bench in the Kleinpoort Court House. The building was originally the school room on Mr. John Grewar's farm, and that gentleman also erected a lock-up close by, placing it at the disposal of the Government, together with premises for the gaoler's and constable's quarters, and also a room for Mr. R. W. Mohr, the issuer of process.

On the day of the opening the proceedings commenced by the Magistrate reading the proclamation establishing the court and administering the oaths to Mr. Mohr as Issuer of Process, and Mr. Atkinson as gaoler.

Mr. Mohr then read an address from the residents of Klein and Groot Winterhoek welcoming the Magistrate most cordially, and asking him to recommend Government to appoint a Special Justice of the Peace in order that punishment might the more speedily follow the commission of offences. This, by the way, has not yet been done, but the court is held every second Thursday. The first prisoner tried was one Tollman Witteboy, who was fined £1 or a month's hard labour for failing to enter the service of Nicholaas Els, of Brandsleisure. The *Uitenhage Times*, describing the opening ceremony, stated that "the prisoner seemed quite elated with the honour of being the first to be tried and convicted in the new court !"

Glenconnor Railway School.

Uitenhage is what might be termed the mother town of three distinct classes of schools in Cape Colony—those to which the Dolley Memorial, the Glenconnor Railway School, and the Uitenhage Industrial School belong. All these were experiments, and when once they had succeeded similar establishments were started in other parts of the country. We have already seen how the Dolley Memorial came into existence, and may now trace as briefly as possible the circumstances which led to the founding of the school mentioned at the head of this article.

As Railway Medical Officer, Dr. A. B. Vanes, who had always taken a keen interest in education,

frequently came in contact with people—gangers, and so forth—living at various points up the line. Many of these had children who were receiving practically no education at all, and who could not be sent to school in Uitenhage, not so much because of the fees, but because of the expense of boarding. Accordingly he joined forces with Mr. Inspector Edwards and Mr. Pierce (Station-master of Glenconnor), and these three gentlemen succeeded not only in establishing a little school at Glenconnor, but in inducing the Railway Department to allow children living on or near the line to proceed thither and return by train once a day free of charge. The Education Department was never in sympathy with the movement, and placed every possible obstacle in the way. At last, however, a grant of £30 per annum was forthcoming, but it was hedged round with such a multiplicity of regulations, and the bands of red tape were drawn so tightly round the little school, that progress was only maintained under the most disheartening conditions. These regulations had to be circumvented, and in order to render the venture in any way practicable the teacher (Miss Rumsey) had to sign an agreement accepting the whole of the grant and of the fees on the one hand wherewith to meet the expenses and to pay her own salary, and, on the other hand, to free the committee from all liability. The school was opened in 1893 and closed down in 1894. After that, however, it was re-opened, and farmers' children were allowed the same privileges as those of railway people. The subsequent progress of the school proved that it was filling a real want, and the result is that there are institutions of a similar nature wherever they are found to be requisite in Cape Colony. And thus Uitenhage's second attempt at pioneer work was attended by success and that sincerest form of flattery, imitation. There are between 20 and 30 scholars now in attendance, and the fees are in proportion to the means of the parents.

The Public Buildings.

For many years Uitenhage had felt the great need of convenient public offices, for the existing buildings were cramped and by no means commodious. The post office was in the building at the corner of Caledon and Market Streets, now occupied by Messrs. Heeley & Co., while justice was dispensed, and the public service carried on, in the old court house next the prison, which was in a very dilapidated and unsafe condition. At length the agitation to have proper offices erected was successful, and the present magnificent pile was erected in 1897. The ground was a barren, treeless plot, covered with small shanties, and having been purchased by Government, the contract for building was placed in the hands of Mr. Gillespie. The opening took place with great *eclât* in January, 1898, the ceremony being performed by Sir Gordon Sprigg, the then premier.

The buildings are exceptionally handsome, and will bear comparison with any of the same kind in the Colony. We reproduce a photograph of them.

Uitenhage Public Buildings.

The square, massive clock tower, one hundred feet high, was named the Victoria Tower, and it is a prominent landmark. Built of brick, and tastefully relieved by cement coping, the buildings are an ornament to the town and source of pride to the inhabitants. The Post Office is situated at the corner facing Church and Caledon Streets, and the box lobby is large and spacious. The sorting and telegraph rooms are at the back, and are fitted with the latest contrivances.

The entrance to the Court-house is from Church Street, and the hall where justice is dispensed is one of the finest in Cape Colony. Indeed, it greatly excels the Eastern Districts Court House, and even the Supreme Court, in appearance. The lofty white pillared walls, and the handsome bench with the Royal arms suspended over the teak canopy, together with the furnishings of the hall, combine to make it one of the handsomest buildings of its kind.

The Magistrate's offices down stairs are equally well fitted up, and are models of what they should be.

Up-stairs are a number of apartments, including an A.R.M. Court, which are now occupied by the staff of the Cape Police, and which were formerly devoted to the military. The Record Room is also situated here, and through it one passes to the tower, where may be seen the archives of the town and district, and the clock itself. From the windows here a magnificent view may be obtained, and the building is well worth a visit.

The clock (which has four faces), bells, &c., were provided by the Town Council at a cost of over £500, and the winding and attention generally required by this clock, as well as that of the Dutch Reformed Church, is also defrayed by the Council, and amounts to £24 per annum

Port Elizabeth Saltpan Company.

Following up the brief history of Bethelsdorp, mention must be made of the important industry of that village, and that is the well known Bethelsdorp Saltpan, which is close to Zwartkops River. The saltpan, at the time when the London Missionary Society was established at the village, which was their distributing station, was a source of revenue to the Mission and inhabitants of the village. It was then worked in the most primitive manner, the natives simply gathering salt from the banks of the great lake as the water evaporated. The lake is two miles long and a mile wide, and is capable of yielding an unlimited supply of salt. The process of winning the salt is very interesting, and during the summer months the pan is like a great ice lake covered with the whitest snow ; the sight is magnificent and well worth seeing.

With the advance of civilization the Mission Station moved northward, and with its departure the village of Bethelsdorp gradually assumed its original wild and uncultivated state. The grand houses, church, and workshops were allowed to decay, and were replaced by the merest hovels ; the Hottentots lived on what they could get from the once cultivated lands, and the sale of the salt gathered from the pan.

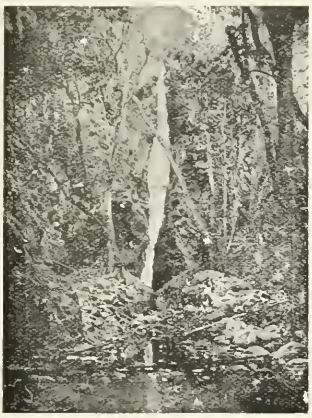
It was only some years after this that the saltpan was leased by a Company, who considerably improved the salt industry, and found employment for the natives. But, unfortunately, after spending a considerable sum of money, and in a few years creating a big industry in salt, their lease lapsed, and the Hottentots, being misled by some of their "lay lawyers," thought they would make more money for themselves, and refused to renew the agreement with the old Company. Consequently, after a few years, the Hottentots saw the folly of their action ; they allowed the pan to become flooded, and the cleaned area and workable beddings soon became mud banks, and the output instead of being 40,000 bags a year fell to about 4,000 bags a year. However, a new start was made a year or two ago, and the whole pan taken over by the Port Elizabeth Salt Pan Company (for whom Messrs. W. R. Jecks & Co. are agents), who have spent, and will continue to spend, a considerable sum of money to bring the celebrated saltpan back to its former productive condition. So far, results have proved very satisfactory, and the samples of salt produced are the purest and whitest in Africa. Up-to-date machinery will soon be erected at the pan, and the finest table salt will be produced thereby. There is absolutely no reason why South Africa should import foreign table salt when such excellent and pure salt is at their very door.

Zwartkops Saltpan Company.

Another noted saltpan of this district is that situated on the high ground about two miles to the east of Zwartkops River, and known as the Grootpan. This saltpan is specially referred to on page 25, where we give an extract from Mr. John Centlivres Chase's book on the subject, written in 1843. It was then the property of the Dutch Reformed Church, and was farmed out at an annual rental of £200. It subsequently came into the possession of the late Mr. Hitzeroth, but when, we are unable to say. The pan had never been systematically worked, and therefore its capabilities had not been fully realised up to the time of Mr. Hitzeroth's death. Soon after the decease of the owner the property was put up to auction (in 1888), and declared not sold on a bid of £10,000. It was subsequently sold privately to Mr. T. W. Gubb for £10,500, when a limited liability company was formed under the style of the Zwartkops Saltpan Company. That Company very quickly put such energy into the affair, and worked the pan so successfully, that the shares rapidly increased in value, and excellent dividends were paid. Messrs. Hirsch, Loubser & Co., of Port Elizabeth, are the agents for this Company.

Upon acquiring possession the company obtained the best scientific advice available for the working of the deposit, and the result is the present admirable system. The shape of the pan is an almost perfect oval, about 1,500 yards long and

1,000 yards wide. At its deepest it is about two feet when full and after heavy rains. The sources of supply are heavily charged saline springs, and these by their continued action have covered the whole bed of the pan with a thick incrustation of salt some two inches thick, and firm enough to bear the workmen and the carts used for transporting the salt. The system of working is extremely simple. When full of water to its utmost edge the pan is of course unworkable, but immediately evaporation commences and the water recedes working can be begun. The water as it evaporates deposits upon the permanent salt floor of the pan the precious mineral. The extent of this deposit may be estimated when we say that the density of the brine is 23 lbs. of salt to the cubic foot, and we may incidentally remark that it is estimated, taking the average depth of brine over the surface of the pan at six inches, it would yield 600,000 bags, or 60,000 tons of pure salt. To continue our explanation : as the water evaporates the salt deposited on the floor is scraped off with iron straight-handled spades ; it is then washed by being worked backwards and forwards in the shallow brine with solid wooden rakes, and then raked beyond the edge of the brine and piled into mounds some 4 to 5 feet high. In this position the salt rapidly dries, and in course of a few hours it is loaded on to wooden handcarts and wheeled into the drying sheds on the margin of the pan. On entering the shed the foreman samples the load and declares whether it shall be considered as of first, second, or third quality ; the load is then put in its proper position according to quality, and in the sheds the salt rapidly loses all moisture, being ready for bagging in the course of three to four days. The grain of salt varies from coarse to extra fine, undergoes no crushing, but is simply sifted if required for table use or salting of butter, and thus the original crystal is retained. The chief grades for the market are course, medium, and fine, which are distinguishable by the letters C.B.A (extra coarse for cattle feeding), C.C., or extra fine A.A. The salt is brought into the market in bags containing 200 lbs. net weight of salt, and every bag is marked with the Company's specially registered trade mark. This is really the whole process of the pan ; the work which is carried out in the salt mines of other countries at enormous expense is here performed entirely by natural processes. There is required no artificial evaporation, no expensive machinery for the purpose of refining : the whole work is done by Nature. The supply, as we have before said, is practically inexhaustible, and when in full working order the pan can put out something approaching 300 tons of salt a day. The ease of collection will be understood when we say that one gang of workmen, generally consisting of four, can in one hour collect as much salt as they can ride during the remainder of the day. If the work is not interrupted by stress of weather, the sheds are heaped up to the roof, as we saw them during a recent visit. Of these there are twelve large sheds, capable of storing about 220,000 to 250,000 bags, or 22,000 to 25,000 tons of salt.



HELL'S GATE, UITENHAGE.

Part X.—The Decade, 1894–1903.

The Uitenhage Musical Society.

From the earliest times Uitenhage has been a centre where music has found favour in the eyes of the inhabitants, but much greater interest was taken in it in past years than is now the case. There are many still amongst us, however, who can remember the days when the Uitenhage Choral Society flourished, waned, died, and was subsequently succeeded in the nineties by the Uitenhage Musical Society—an institution which, alas, has gone the way of its predecessor.

The leading spirit in musical circles was the late Mr. H. W. Bidwell, and he it was who trained the first chorus that ever sung in Uitenhage. This was as long ago as in the early part of 1865. From this time may be dated the commencement of the rise and progress of music in Uitenhage. In the early part of 1865 a terrible storm had swept across Table Bay, which was not then protected by a breakwater, causing shipwreck, poverty, and suffering. The Rev. A. I. Steytler, then minister of the D. R. Church here, and now the head of that body in South Africa, called upon Mr. Bidwell with another clergyman and asked him to get up a concert in aid of a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of the men who had been drowned. He consented, and several ladies and gentlemen placed their voices at his disposal. They met for practice in the London and South African Bank, now the residence of Mr. James Lane, at the corner of Caledon and John Streets. They had very little time, and therefore their efforts were very modest. They consisted of such simple choruses as "See our Oars with Feathered Spray," "Glorious Apollo," and so forth. Mr. Bidwell always used to enjoy relating a little ancedote at the expense of the Rev. Mr. Steytler who, it appeared, had some scruples about singing "Glorious Apollo," because it was a hymn in praise of a heathen deity! But they managed to overcome those scruples in the end, and they had the benefit of his magnificent bass voice. Humble as the effort was, and small as the population of Uitenhage was, comparatively speaking, the public crowded to the Court House, and the result was that after all expenses had been paid a very handsome sum was contributed to the relief fund.

From this modest beginning they developed into a really good Choral Society, and in 1869 they were working at such music as Handel's "Messiah," and "Judas Macabæus," Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," "Hear my Prayer," and "Athalie," Haydn's "Creation," and the glorious Masses of Mozart. The Society became a great educating power. It awoke a latent talent for good music, and in the course of time brought forward some really excellent voices. The Society had a most successful career, but suffered from the usual vicissitudes entailed by various of its members leaving the town, or being removed by death. Afterwards it ceased to exist, but it sprang up again later on under the name of the Uitenhage Musical Society. Mr. Bidwell was elected permanent president and Mr. M. M. Steytler, brother of the first president, was the conductor. In 1894 Mozart's Twelfth Mass was performed, with full orchestral accompaniment, and during the existence of the Society many other famous works by the greater composers were rendered.

Many causes, however, contributed to the dissolution of the Society, chief amongst them being the demise of its leading spirit, Mr. H. W. Bidwell. No association of this nature exists here at present, but efforts in the direction of establishing one have not been wanting lately.

We may fittingly close this brief history of the rise, progress, and decline of concerted music in Uitenhage by referring to a scheme which had its inception in the fertile brain of Mr. Bidwell, and which, after publication by him in the *Uitenhage Times*, was taken up warmly by leading musicians in all parts of the Colony, especially by the late Dean Williams, of Grahamstown. This was nothing less than a Choral Union for the whole of Cape Colony. It was found that, even then—*i.e.*, in the seventies—there were at least 2,000 good voices in

the Cape alone. The idea was to meet annually and to give festivals, changing the place of meeting every year. The scheme, as we have said, was eagerly taken up all over the Colony by those interested in music, but there were no railways in those days ; and a difficulty that could not be overcome was the travelling from place to place in this country of long distances over bad roads. Now, however, all that is changed : railways run to practically every centre, congresses meet all over the country—Farmers' Associations, Teachers' Congresses, Medical and Press Congresses, Bond Congresses, and Congresses of Poisoning Clubs—and we believe that had not death removed him all too soon from his sphere of usefulness Mr. Bidwell would eventually have succeeded in making a Congress of Musicians an accomplished fact. If ever the idea is taken up in the future there can never be any doubt but that it was initiated many years ago by the conductor and subsequent president of the Uitenhage Musical Society.

The Industrial School.

To the Rev. D. J. Pienaar primarily belongs the credit of having established the Uitenhage Industrial School for poor whites, as it was through his unremitting efforts to found such an institution that it eventually became an accomplished fact. The idea was first mooted in 1893, and from the very beginning the school may be said to have been under the ægis of the Dutch Reformed Church. The Graaff-Reinet Presbytery consists of eight congregations, and Uitenhage is one of them. When Mr. Pienaar took the matter up, four alternative proposals were made : (1) That the School should be started on the same lines as the Riebeek College ; (2) that it should be run in connection with the Boys' Public School, and either be placed under the direct supervision of the Divisional Council or in the control of a committee of twelve members ; (3) that it should be started by the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery, or (4) that it should be conducted on the same lines as the Normal College or the Theological Seminary, *i.e.*, by the Dutch Reformed Church of Cape Colony.

This last proposition was the one adopted by the promoters here, and the Uitenhage Congregation expressed its willingness to purchase a suitable site for the purpose, present it to the whole church of Cape Colony, and allow the requisite building to be erected by that body. This site was situate in the Graaff-Reinet Road, and consisted of four erven which could be purchased for £500. This was in July, 1893. After some correspondence had been exchanged, however, the authorities of the Dutch Reformed Church rejected this proposal and advised that the matter should be taken up by the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery, of which Uitenhage forms a unit, as a similar institution was about to be founded in the Western Province.

It is a noteworthy fact that just about this period the Government was collecting data to lay before Parliament with the intention of starting schools of this class in various parts of the country, so that the offer above referred to coincided in point of time with the efforts that were being made by the Ministry in the same direction. Dealing with the subject in its editorial columns, *Ons Land* admitted that Uitenhage would form an admirable centre for the establishment of such an institution, but pointed out that it was unreasonable to expect the burden to fall upon the shoulders of one congregation, and advised that it should be borne by the whole church. However, the whole church, as represented by the Synodical Committee, declined to accept the responsibility, and, as we have seen, referred it to the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery with its eight congregations.

The First Steps.

Mr. Pienaar then set to work in downright earnest, and in a remarkably brief space of time he had everything in train. The first committee consisted of the Revs. D. J. Pienaar, Chas. Murray, and S. Cawood ; Messrs. A. H. Garcia, C.C. & R.M., Jas. Ayliff, Thos. Grewar, C. Saayman, J. M. Thornton, and L. J. van Vuuren. Mr. Pienaar presided at the first meeting of the committee, and Mr. van Vuuren acted as hon. secretary. The Rev. C. Murray was elected president, Mr. Garcia vice-president, and Rev. D. J. Pienaar hon. secretary. In his efforts to raise the necessary funds Mr. Pienaar was indefatigable. He preached up and down the country, he appealed to every congregation in the Presbytery, he collected privately, and in a few weeks there was in hand a sum of no less than £530. This afterwards swelled to nearly £1 000.

The question of vesting the property was settled by a resolution proposed by Mr. Garcia, who contended that as the idea had been first mooted by the Dutch Reformed Church, and as the funds had been raised by the church, the property should be vested in the church. This was cordially supported by the other members of the committee, and carried. The trustees were the Rev. D. J. Pienaar, of Uitenhage ; the Rev. Chas. Murray, of Graaff-Reinet ; and the Rev. B. B.

Keet, of Humansdorp. Mr. Pienaar is to-day the only survivor of the original trustees.

The site at the bottom of Lower Cuyler Street, upon which the building stands, was purchased, together with the existing buildings, for £700, and this cannot be considered in any way excessive, for the grounds, which were then being cultivated by Mr. James Taylor, are about ten acres in extent. The property thus purchased passed into the possession of the church on the first of January, 1894.

Early Mistakes.

The first real difficulty that had to be surmounted was the appointment of a competent principal. As will be readily understood, this is a matter of vital importance to an institution like the Industrial School, but, unfortunately for the establishment, the committee's choice was by no means a happy one. Mr. Döege was a capable and efficient artisan, but as a superintendent he was unsuccessful. The discipline was lax where it should have been strict, for the boys were of a rough, untamed class, and the great majority of them required to be governed with an iron hand until they became thoroughly amenable and reconciled to the altered conditions under which they had to live They defied the Superintendent, absconded, and gave an infinity of trouble in many ways. Mr. Döege resigned in 1897, and the school up to that period cannot be said to have justified the hopes of those who were responsible for its foundation. Another mistake was made, and this lay in the committee's admitting too large a number of youths to the establishment at once. They began with forty-three, and most of these kicked over the traces before they had been there very long.

Mr. W. McJannett.

However, on Mr. Döege's resignation being received Mr. Pienaar communicated with the head of the Free Church Training School, Edinburgh, and requested him to advertise for a competent superintendent and to send out some of the best applications received. Five of these were subsequently received, and the final choice eventually lay between two candidates. Dr. Muir, Superintendent General of Education, gave his vote in favour of the one who had also found favour in the eyes of the committee without knowing that this was the case—and thus Mr. William McJannett was appointed. The choice was justified, for in Mr. McJannett the committee found precisely the right man for the position, and since he took over the reins of the institution its record has been one of steady progress and of continued success.

Steady Progress.

The prosperity of the school was such that increased accommodation became necessary, and in 1901 the buildings were largely augmented and improved at a cost of £1,400. The new dormitories contain 80 beds, and even now this accommodation is taxed to its uttermost limits.

Uitenhage Industrial School

The school is undenominational, but as the greater proportion of the boys are drawn from the poor Dutch class, the majority of them naturally attend the Dutch Reformed Church. The first master shoemaker engaged was a Roman Catholic, and he died in the service of the committee, while, curiously enough, his successor, an Irishman named French, was also a Roman Catholic, and he also died in service.

The school is not conducted with the object of making profits, and although there is always a credit balance at the end of the year, this never amounts to much. The earnings from the Industrial Departments totalled for 1905 £2,862 3s. 3d., while for this £1,850 was paid for material. The salaries of the teachers were responsible for about £1,500 (of which the Government contributed £700), provisions cost £822, and clothing £229. The Government gives a grant of £15 for each boy, and £18 for those sent to the institution under the Destitute Children's Act.

Regulations for Admission.

To gain admittance a boy must be the son of European parents who are paupers; he must not be under 13 years of age and not over 18, and it must be agreed that, when once he enters the

school, he is solely under the control of the committee, and remains so until his indentures have expired. Three years is the minimum period for which a youngster can become a pupil at the institution. The committee undertake to feed and clothe him, to educate him until he reaches the sixth standard, and to teach him one trade—and all this without his parents contributing one farthing to the funds of the establishment. Of trades there are no less than six taught, viz., carpentry, cart and wagon building, blacksmithing and farriery, tailoring, and shoemaking.

The Curriculum.

The boys are well cared for, and impress the visitor by their strong, sturdy, and healthy appearance. They receive instruction in batches, those who are occupied in the technical and drawing classes during the morning being employed at practical work in the afternoon, while each has to spend a certain time every day working in the large garden, where fruit and vegetables are cultivated.

The educational curriculum extends as far as the sixth standard. It is gratifying to be able to record that not a single case of failure amongst ex-pupils has yet come to the knowledge of the committee. Many of the "old boys," who would have been paupers to-day, are not only self-supporting, but have been able to render substantial assistance to their parents. Others are now owners of fixed property, have married well, and are in independent positions. To Mr. McJannett, the genial superintendent, the greatest praise must be given for the results he has achieved. To the existence of the iron hand within the velvet glove much of his success is due, but over and above that must be placed the skill with which he and his staff have transformed the rough material in the shape of raw and ignorant youths, fresh from the veld, into capable and competent artisans.

The Mackay Bridge.

An agitation had been going on for over 30 years to induce the Government to end the unsatisfactory state of things by erecting a bridge over the Sundays River, and, mainly owing to the stout advocacy of Mr. John Mackay when in Parliament, such a bridge was at length decided upon, and the structure was commenced in February, 1894, and completed and opened for traffic on Tuesday, 5th March, 1895, by Mrs. A. H. Garcia, wife of the Civil Commissioner of Uitenhage, in the presence of a large number of the principal residents of Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, and Alexandria. In honour of the gentleman to whose exertions the building of the bridge was mainly due, the structure was formally christened "The Mackay Bridge."

The Mackay Bridge.

The bridge was erected at a cost of £14,000, half of which was paid by Government and half by the Divisional Council. It is made entirely of steel and iron, and its length is 720 feet. It is approached on the west side by about two miles of perfectly straight and level road, and near the bridge on either side are neat gravel footpaths. The deck of the bridge is of wood.

The Old Camtoos Ferry.

For many years a pontoon similar to that at Sundays River was used for the conveyance of traffic across the Gamtoos River. The ferry was close to the Gamtoos River Hotel, and was owned by the late Mr. G. D. Smith, of Nocton Farm. But this very primitive method of crossing a broad tidal river was frequently a source of much annoyance and delay, owing to freshets, and it often happened that carts and wagons were delayed on either side of the river for several days owing to the inability to cross. As a matter of course, as the country districts became more thickly populated the volume of trade on this, the main road connecting the Eastern Province with the Metropolis, increased, and some thirty years ago an agitation commenced for bridging the river. All our local members of Parliament advocated such a bridge, with the exception of Major-General Nixon, who wished to see a causeway erected, so that, in his opinion, it could be used as a roadway as well as a means of damming the river and so irrigating the immense flat on the western side.

Gamtoos Bridge.

General Nixon's idea, however, did not meet with much support, and ultimately the present bridge was decided on. It was several years in course of construction, owing to the unfavourable conditions of the bed of the river for solid foundations, but was eventually completed and opened on the 3rd December, 1895. The "christening" ceremony was performed by Mrs. Garcia, the wife of the Civil Commissioner of Uitenhage, who was accompanied by Mrs. C. W. Andrews, wife of the Humansdorp Magistrate.

The originally estimated cost of the bridge was £20,000, but this sum was considerably exceeded on account of the delay caused by the difficulty of finding suitable foundations. It is a cylinder bridge of six 100-feet spans, and is therefore 600 feet long, with 16 feet between the abutments. The approaches to the bridge on either side cost £6,000 to construct.

Gamtoos River Bridge

Uitenhage Cottage Hospital.

It would be difficult to say when the scheme for the erection of a Cottage Hospital was first mooted, but we can be sure that the idea had existed in the minds of the leading inhabitants of Uitenhage long before it was brought forward with any degree of publicity. When a serious accident occurred on the railway or in the Work Shops, or even in the streets, or when an epidemic visited the town, the want of hospital accommodation would be talked about for a week or two and the subject would then be allowed to sink into oblivion once more. Again, the local medical men were never enthusiastic about it, and to this must in large measure be attributed the indifference of the inhabitants in general.

Medical Opposition.

It is true that in the early eighties the Magistrate interested himself in the project and promised to exert his influence with the Government if the Town Council would undertake to provide a suitable building to which parties in the town and district might be taken and properly cared for in cases of serious illness or of injury from accidents. The Corporation thereupon referred the question to Drs. Lamb and Cuffe for report. The former gave it as his opinion that a hospital was unnecessary in this town, inasmuch as, in the first place, sufficient funds could not be secured for the purpose, and in the second, that the spacious hospital in Port Elizabeth, together with a resident medical officer and a staff of trained nurses, was always available for deserving and suitable cases occurring in Uitenhage. Dr. Cuffe wrote in a similar strain, and stated that, in his opinion, there was no necessity for such an institution in Uitenhage. Once more, therefore, the whole matter fell to the ground.

The steady growth of the town, however, coupled with the ever increasing necessity for such an institution, rendered it imperative that some determined attempt should be made to establish an infirmary where the sick could be received and accidents attended to without taking the patients to Port Elizabeth.

The Site Procured.

A provisional committee was formed in 1898, and in October of that year a public meeting was called for the purpose of enlisting the aid of the townspeople generally, and in order to take the necessary steps for the raising of funds. The late Mr. George Macpherson was Mayor at the time, and he took the keenest interest in the proposal. The Town Council considered the matter in all its bearings, and having inspected various eligible sites, finally decided to apply to Government for the ground upon which the building now stands. After some trouble this request was granted, the Council in return undertaking to grant a site for the erection of a new prison; stipulating, however, that the Government should transfer a piece of land to be converted into a forty-foot street which would lead through the present gaol erf from Caledon Street to the hospital. This request was at first refused, but the Government afterwards decided to accede to it, and the work will be proceeded with as soon as provision is made for the new police barracks and prison.

The Funds Raised.

The ladies now began to take their share in the work, and they performed their part well. Bazaars, concerts, and children's fêtes followed one another in quick succession, and at this period Uitenhage must have been one of the gayest, and, at the same time one of the most expensive towns to live in (for those who are fond of gaiety of this description). Subscription lists were opened, collections made and donations arranged, and the result was that before long Mrs. Cresswell Clark, who was one of the chief organisers of these money-raising schemes, was able to hand over a sum of nearly £700 to the Committee.

This body then approached the Railway Medical Board with a request that they would contribute a sum towards the erection of the building, and no less than £1,800 was forthcoming from this source, the conditions being that the Board be represented on the Committee, and that three beds be placed permanently at its disposal, and that its patients be admitted at 3 6 per diem instead of the usual charge—about 6 6. This £1,800 was really a loan bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent., which is payable under certain conditions which form the basis of an agreement between the Committee and the Board.

The Committee next notified the Government that they had £2,000 in hand, and as a result the Government contributed a similar sum on the £ for £ principal.

Architects and Contractors.

With £4,000 in hand the Committee was now in a position to consider the question of erecting the building itself, and with this object plans were called for. Now began a series of apparently endless disappointments, for the architects seemed to be unable to design a building which could be erected for a moderate sum. The plans received were very fine, but the cost of transforming them into bricks and mortar was far and away beyond the means at the disposal of the committee. Twelve designs were submitted, and the selection was left to Mr. R. E. Wright, Inspector of Public Works. His choice fell upon Mr. Preshaw's plan, but when tenders were called for it it was found that although the largest sum available was £3,500, or at the very most £4,000, the lowest tender was for £7,000. This plan was therefore abandoned. Then the war broke out, and Mr. Preshaw being in Bloemfontein at the time, communication was only obtained with him after the greatest difficulty and delay. This continued for a long time, and at last the Committee were glad to close the episode by paying the architect £65, and to begin *de novo*. Then Mr. Holland, of Port Elizabeth, was instructed to draw up the plan of a building to cost not more than £3,500, but the lowest tender for this was £6,000. Mr. Holland was taken ill, and the matter was suspended for several months, at the end of which period he was paid a substantial fee, and the whole question opened *de novo* once more. This time Messrs. Stucke & Bannister, the architects of the Mutual Buildings, Port Elizabeth, were given similar instructions to those received by the others, and so convinced were they that they could meet the requirements that they undertook to provide a plan which would not cost more than £4,000, and they promised to draw up another one gratis, should the tenders for the first exceed the stipulated sum. The plan arrived, and it was certainly a very elaborate one, and the building would have been a magnificent one. Tenders were called for, the lowest was £6,000, and the architects' suggestion that only half of the hospital should be built for the time being rejected, trouble ensued, and finally, after lengthy negotiations, the whole matter was again commenced from the beginning. This time the services of Mr. Hawthorn Thornton were secured, and he furnished the designs for the present building. The successful tenderer was Mr. A. Gillespie, who erected the hospital for a sum slightly less than £3,500.

Uitenhage Cottage Hospital.

The Building

is situated on the breezy slopes of Cannon Hill, and forms a landmark visible for many miles. Constructed of red brick, its exterior is of a plain but neat description, while the internal arrangements are models of compactness and convenience.

Two large wards, one for males and the other for females, open from both sides of the entrance passage, while the operating theatre is close by and on the same floor. These apartments are well lighted and well ventilated, and are admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were designed. The dispensary and kitchens are at the back of the main block, while separated from it by a few feet only are the native wards, the mortuary, and linen and store rooms. The nurses' quarters are up-stairs, and considerable improvements will be made in this direction later on.

The nursing staff consists of the matron (Sister Brawn) and five nurses (two staff nurses and three probationers), but so far there is no resident medical officer, the local doctors attending to their own patients, as is usual in the case of Cottage Hospitals.

The grounds will shortly be worthy of the institution, and the patients before very long will be able to exchange the shelter of the stoep for the more grateful shade of the trees.

The Committee of Management last elected consists of Messrs. E. J. Philpott, C.C. and R.M.; J. Whiteside, Mayor; J. M. Thornton, T. W. Mills, M.L.A., and S. Hall, as Government nominees; Messrs. H. O. Tutt, W. E. Bennewith, T. Urquhart, H. Ward, J. G. Nicholl, and A. J. Sellick, elective members; Dr. Macpherson, member of visiting medical staff.

War and Martial Law.

On the 11th of October, 1899, war was declared between the Boer Republics and Great Britain. For some time operations were confined to the more northerly portions of the Colony, but gradually the affected sphere widened, until at last it reached the coast districts and those adjoining them, Uitenhage included.

But before this actually happened we in Uitenhage had in many ways been made to realise the fact that peace had departed from our borders. The town had been placarded at intervals with huge posters inviting men to join the various corps already in the field, recruiting officers were to be seen in the hotels and at other places where men do congregate, and the Drill Hall presented quite a busy sight, inasmuch as it was the home depôt of the Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles. As the enemy steadily encroached upon the Colony and penetrated further south, and as the rebels in the Karroo increased in number, train loads of soldiers passed through the town on their way to the disaffected centres, and the members of the Loyal Women's Guild, under the presidency of Mrs. P. Thomson, worked strenuously in order to provide the men with various little comforts, which were always appreciated by them. So far, however, Uitenhage was practically out of the real pinch of war, and the inhabitants as a body remained in much the same condition as of yore. Matters, in fact, proceeded as they had done in the past, and the only way in which Uitenhage could be said to be visibly affected by the struggle then raging in the north was when batches of recruits left for the front, when the flags were hoisted in honour of a British victory or drooped half-mast high when the news of a defeat was received.

Martial Law Proclaimed.

But on the evening of Thursday, the 17th January, 1901—fifteen months after the commencement of hostilities—the local authorities received the following telegram from Capetown :—

Martial Law proclaimed over the whole Colony, excepting the districts of the Cape, Wynberg, Simonstown, Port Elizabeth, and East London.

This step was not altogether unexpected, but it came more suddenly than had been anticipated. It was now felt that matters, so far as this part of the Colony was concerned, had begun to approach a much more critical aspect than had yet been the case, and the public looked forward with some degree of expectancy to the new *regime* which now came into force. Its nature was not well understood, but a good definition of it was given by Mr. C. G. H. Bell, C.M.G., who was then Magistrate of Uitenhage, and who had served in a similar capacity in Mafeking under Baden-Powell. He said : "Some people think that under martial law they need not pay their debts or their rent, and that they must not be out after 9 o'clock at night. The fact is, however, martial law is the will of the commander, and if he is a reasonable, civilised human being, it will not be made unnecessarily irksome." Neither was it, although in course of time, when the enemy were within measurable distance of Uitenhage, the conditions enforced certainly did become rather irksome; but it was generally recognised that this was needful and unavoidable.

On the evening after martial law was proclaimed an exceptionally large public meeting was held in the Drill Hall, over which Mr. Mayor Macpherson presided. The object of the assemblage was to consider the defence of the town, and to take steps to raise a force for defensive purposes. Enthusiasm rose to a high pitch as the position was explained, and the speeches delivered on that occasion were decidedly of the confident order.

From the beginning of the war Uitenhage had sent from five to six hundred men to the front, and a Town Guard, under the command of Captain J. M. Thornton, had been formed in the early stages of the war. At that time there was considerable unrest throughout the Colony, and there were many nervous people who were considerably disturbed in mind by the alarming reports which were circulated through the town. The patriotic gentlemen who then shouldered the rifle and formed the Town Guard were successful in restoring confidence amongst their neighbours by placing themselves in readiness for any emergency. But now that matters had proceeded so far as to render the proclamation of martial law advisable, it was felt that the hands of the Town Guard should be strengthened, and that a Town Guard Defence Force should be established here. The services of its members were practically the same as those rendered by the Town Guard, but they were paid 2 6 per drill, two drills being put in every week, the Town Guard and its officers being taken over by the Town Guard Defence Force *en bloc*. Every batch of fifty elected its own lieutenant, and every company of 100 its own captain. They were then liable to be called out for active service, to defend the water works, and so on.

The Town Guard.

In November, 1899, the Commandant at Port Elizabeth requested Captain Thornton to form a Town Guard at Uitenhage, and this was done, and 100 men from the Loco. Shops were enrolled, and these formed the nucleus of a force that eventually numbered nearly 800 officers and men. This corps remained practically dormant for about a year, as their was nothing for them to do; but in January, 1901, some 69 members of the U.V.R. returned from active service, and these were incorporated in the Town Guard with the following officers:—Capt. J. M. Thornton commanding; Capt. J. G. Mackenzie, Lieuts. V. Roberts, W. Bidwell, J. Magennis, H. O. Sellick, E. Chase, and R. G. Lamb. At the end of January the Town Guard was merged in the Colonial Defence Force, with a strength of 8 officers and 304 men, and patrolling of the town at night was commenced, and the town was surrounded with redoubts.

About 70 of the Town Guard were mounted, under Capt. C. T. Ayliff and Lieuts. Parkin and Hudson Lamb, but this force was ultimately embodied with the District Mounted Troops, and known as Thornton's Horse, and placed under the command of Captain W. Heugh.

About this time, also, about 100 residents, consisting of elderly men and others who had not the time to devote to regular drills, but who were anxious to do something in defence of their homes if attacked, offered to join the Town Guard as a separate body from the regular Guard, not to attend parades, but to be simply instructed in the use of the rifle, and told off to certain trenches, which they would be prepared to man whenever the town was threatened. Their services were accepted, and they were duly enrolled, the officers being Capt. the Hon. J. F. Dolley and Lieuts. T. W. Mills, H. Chase, W. T. Catton, and R. Restall. Originally this force was called the 2nd battalion of the Town Guard, but was subsequently merged into the 1st battalion as G Company.

On the 9th February it was reported that a party of Boers had been seen in the neighbourhood of Van Staadens, and the whole force remained under arms during the night, and the redoubts and trenches were manned, and about 60 men of the mounted section, under Captain Ayliff and Lieut. Parkin, went out in the direction of Witteklip, and remained out all night, but did not come in touch with the enemy.

On the 25th February the strength of the corps was 43 officers and 749 men.

On the 11th March a detachment of 1 officer and 13 men were sent to Alicedale, but returned on the 16th without having met the enemy. During this month the Sportman's Corps came into existence, and joined the District Mounted Troops. A picket, consisting of about 25 men, nightly patrolled the town and environs.

During April the whole force was armed and equipped, and uniformed in khaki, with smasher hat turned up on the left side and ornamented with a purple ostrich plume. On the 13th 100 men and 5 officers were despatched to Jansenville, and remained there on patrol duty until the 25th.

In May the night pickets were withdrawn, and two cyclists paraded the town at night, and a gaol guard was formed to look after 36 political prisoners from Jansenville, who were at first confined in the Drill Hall, but were subsequently removed to the town prison and old court-house.

In June a detachment of Thornton's Horse left for up-country. On the 12th Capt. Schreiber, of the Royal Engineers, staff officer to the district commandant, inspected the corps and reported very favourably on them.

In August 44 men of the Town Guard and 3 officers, under Captain Gee, were despatched with an armoured train to patrol the line as far as

Willowmore and Rosmead Junction. They were away fifteen days. Other detachments were sent to garrison Kleinpoort, Barroe, and Klipplaat, during this month.

During October detachments were sent to Mount Stewart, and in November others proceeded to Bluecliff, Glenconnor, Mount Stewart, and Klipplaat. During November the corps was inspected by General R. Inigo Jones, and the men were by him highly complimented on their efficiency.

During December Captain S. B. Hobson was appointed to command all Colonial troops in Area No. 4.

The corps was disbanded on the 31st December, 1902.

The Commandants of Uitenhage.

The first commandant of Uitenhage was the magistrate, Mr. C. G. H. Bell, and his knowledge of warfare, gained during the historic siege of Mafeking, stood him in good stead, until he became seriously ill with appendicitis, and was *hors de combat* for several months. He was succeeded by Captain (now Major) Schreiber, of the Royal Engineers, who had been appointed staff-officer to Lieut.-Colonel Bell.

The Censorship.

It was during his *regime* that the censorship was established, and this was perhaps the institution which people found the hardest to endure under martial law. From first to last we had several censors, and while some exercised their authority with tact and common sense, others did not, and there was much heart-burning in consequence. As a general rule letters addressed to people with Dutch names were opened, and if they contained any information or opinions which it were better should not be disseminated, the letter was either partially defaced or destroyed altogether, and the writer was fairly sure to receive a communication of a more or less unpleasant nature from the commandant before any lengthy period had elapsed. The newspapers were of course subjected to the strictest rules and regulations, and every "proof" had to be submitted for inspection before the article, or paragraph, or telegram was permitted to be published. And when the proofs were returned from the office, duly signed and stamped "Passed Press Censor," and when at last the paper had been printed and posted, every copy not addressed to a person holding some position in a defence corps was kept in the local post-office for twenty-one days before being forwarded to its destination! This was to prevent news circulating in the country before it was so old as to be useless to any of the enemy into whose hands it might fall. The press, in fact, had many hardships to contend with. In more than one newspaper office the supply of paper ran short, and no more could be obtained for love or money, as the steamers in Algoa Bay lay for weeks, or even months, without being able to discharge their cargo. The *Uitenhage Times* had to reduce its size, and to cease publishing its country edition, owing to this cause. The exchange papers, which are sent to the editor from other offices, were delayed for three weeks, until at last he arranged for them to be addressed to him in his capacity of Sergeant in the Town Guard, and *then* they came through!

Passes.

In the meantime several "undesirables" had been removed from their farms and brought into Uitenhage, where they were under the surveillance of the authorities. In order to keep them from leaving the town no person was allowed to go beyond the commonage by train, cart, wagon, or on foot, without a permit. Consequently, when one wished to visit Port Elizabeth it was necessary to obtain written permission from the permit officer at the station to do so. This was made out in triplicate, and the would-be traveller had to give his name, address, and the business which was taking him or her from Uitenhage. A list of those prohibited from leaving lay at the officer's elbow, and many were thus prevented from slipping away. But before one could visit another town, such as Humansdorp, or Steytlerville, or Jansenville, for instance, a permit could not be obtained for the mere asking. The commandant here (at the applicant's expense, of course) wired to the commandant there, asking whether he would receive the applicant into his district, and there are to-day some dozens of duplicate telegram books in the archives of the Uitenhage public offices containing such messages as this: "Can John Smith visit your town. Thoroughly loyal. I recommend." Sometimes Mr. John Smith might have a less enviable reputation in the town he purposed visiting than in the one he purposed leaving, and the following answer, which is typical, would effectually stop him: "Cannot admit John Smith."

The hotels were closed at 10 o'clock at night, and once all the bars were closed down for three days. This was when the enemy, under the notorious Fouche, were approaching, but as drinks

were still obtainable in Port Elizabeth, the number of men who suddenly discovered they had "business" to see about there increased so materially that the trains were packed with them!

One excellent effect of martial law was the total prohibition of the sale of liquor to natives. After they had "got over their thirst," as they expressed it, many of them were most unwilling that the taboo should be removed, for they themselves felt that they did not wish temptation to be placed in their way again.

By and bye the pass system was extended to the town itself, and nobody could remain out after ten o'clock without a permit. For some months this state of affairs continued, and the town was patrolled by sentries drawn from the ranks of the Town Guard. Unless one—no matter who he might be—could give the countersign, or produce a pass signed by the Town Commandant, he was haled before the lieutenant on duty at the Drill Hall, reprimanded, and either set free with a caution or forced to spend the night in that decidedly bleak building and be brought before the commandant in the morning. Fines and imprisonment might be summarily inflicted *in camera*. It was "the will of the commander." When a concert was held (by permission of the authorities) midnight passes were issued with the programmes, and on one occasion General Inigo Jones, who attended an entertainment in the Town Hall, with the local officers, was gravely handed his permit to go home, as were also his brethren in command!

In the foregoing we have given a slight sketch of Uitenhage under martial law, and of the various little episodes which rendered civilian life different in the time of war to what it is in the piping times of peace, for these will gradually be forgotten as time goes on, and, like the great struggle itself, become as a tale that is told.

Capt. Schreiber was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel T. Tamplin, K.C., M.L.A., and it was during his *regime* that most of the regulations above referred to were brought into force. The genial Commandant of No. 4 Area, however, made the conditions of life as pleasant for the people under his sway as was consistent with the exigencies of the situation—and his "subjects" were not few, for Area No. 4 was nearly as large as Scotland. Colonel Tamplin was in turn succeeded by Major A. F. Pilson, D.S.O., of the Dublin Regiment, an officer who quickly gained the respect and esteem of the inhabitants. Just and firm, yet courteous and obliging, Major Pilson was one in a thousand, and if every British officer who was vested with the authority of a commandant during the war had acted as Major Pilson did here, there would be less bitterness existent in South Africa to-day. The staff officer was Captain K. C. Wright, of the Bedfordshires; the Town Commandant was Captain W. G. Back.

Finally, Colonel Bell recovered after undergoing more than one serious operation, and he took over the command at the last. Peace was declared on the 31st of May 1902, and the rejoicings that ensued were on a scale larger even than those with which the reliefs of Kimberley, Ladysmith, and Mafeking were celebrated. It was during the last-named festival, by the way, that a sad accident occurred on Cannon Hill. Mr. C. Cross, well known in Uitenhage, was in the act of loading an ancient piece of ordnance there during the *feu-de-joie*, when the piece exploded, and the stout pole with which he was ramming down the charge, was shattered, and pieces of it shot into him. He died shortly afterwards.

Engagements in Uitenhage District.

The Boers under Kritzinger, Fouche, and Smuts entered this area at various times, but it is gratifying to be able to state that they scarcely picked up a single rebel. The actions fought within the area were neither important nor severe, and in practically every case the skirmishes went to the credit of the British forces.

The town itself was surrounded by trenches, and these, protected by rows of sandbags, were manned one night when the Boers were supposed to be advancing on the place. They are still in existence, but they have lost their erstwhile trimness, and are mostly covered with grass and cactus. Yet in all probability their shapes will long be distinguishable, and will serve as memorials of the long war during which they were thrown up.

Uitenhage was visited in February, 1901, by Colonel Gorringe's Flying Column, and as it came pouring down the Red Hill from the direction of Humansdorp many of the townspeople imagined for the time that the Boers were arriving in force! However, when the peaceable intentions of the visitors were ascertained they were most cordially welcomed, and when the men departed they confessed that they had seldom been entertained so thoughtfully and effectively.

Before closing this necessarily sketchy history of the war as it affected Uitenhage, we must not omit to do justice to the Loyal Women's Guild,

which worked and still works so heartily in the cause of practical loyalty. Its members acquitted themselves nobly in a hundred different ways, and the branch is to-day one of the most important and flourishing of its kind in Cape Colony.

Memorial to the Fallen.

The memorial to the local men who fell during the war, now standing in the Market Square, was unveiled by Mr. Cradock Parkin, mayor, on the 14th February, 1904. It takes the form of a drinking fountain, surmounted by a life-size figure of a rifleman in khaki, and was erected at a cost of about £380. This sum was raised by a series of entertainments, a donation of £42 by the Loyal Women's Guild, and the balance was a grant from the Municipality. The unveiling ceremony was a very impressive one. A short burial service was conducted by the Rev. C. B. Jecks, and speeches were afterwards made by the Mayor (Mr. C. Parkin) and Mr. T. W. Mills, and a handsome wreath was placed on the monument by Mrs. P. Thomson on behalf of the Loyal Women's Guild.

The following are the names of the fallen inscribed on the base of the monument :—

Lieut. J. Holt, U.V.R.
" C. C. Guthin, U.V.R.
Staff Sergt. Paisley, U.V.R.
Sergt. E. P. Negus, U.V.R.
Private H. McCoy, U.V.R.
Sergt. J. Bosman, M.H.
Lance Corporal G. Catton, M.H.
Trooper H. Don, M.H.
" R. E. Raherty, M.H.
" A. Taylor, M.H.
" J. M. Smart, M.H.
" J. R. Henegan, M.H.
Private C. Houghton, A.L.H.
Lieut. E. B. Cunningham, A.I.D.
Sergt.-Major E. Turner, J.M.R.
Sergt. J. Bulfin, D.G.
Corporal W. A. Webb, B.S.A.P.
Trooper G. Ruddlesden, E.P.H.
" B. Couldridge, K.H.
" R. Gillson, D.M.T.
" D. Foxcroft, D.M.T.
" M. H. Rudman, D.M.T.
" I. J. van Niekerk, A.I.D.
" J. W. Couldridge, R.P.R.

The Port Elizabeth Avontuur Railway.

A statement made in 1894 that in less than ten years Port Elizabeth and Humansdorp would be connected by rail would have been received as the prognostication of a madman ; and we do not think the latter place had ever been mentioned in any projected railway scheme of the many that had been brought before Parliament in the previous years. We think we are correct in stating that it was in that year that the disabilities of the Long Kloof as a successful grain and fruit producing district were first brought before the public, and an agitation was commenced, putting forth the exceptional capabilities of Long Kloof as an agricultural centre. Thousands of acres of splendid arable land existed between Humansdorp and Kromme River Heights, and thence through Long Kloof to Avontuur, which was a well-watered country, and peopled by an energetic class of farmers who could grow the products if they could but find the market. The distance was too great for them profitably to grow foodstuffs and convey the same to their natural market (Port Elizabeth) in ox wagons. The freight on forage, potatoes, grain, and like produce was in some instances more than the selling price amounted to, and in the case of fruit it often happened that it was quite rotten before half the journey was accomplished.

The agitation was successful, and eventually, after two surveys had been made, Parliament decided as an experiment to build a light and cheap line from Port Elizabeth to Avontuur (178 miles) to tap as many farms as possible *en route*, and so provide an easier, quicker, and cheaper mode of transporting the produce to market. The idea was thankfully taken up by the farmers of the district, who heartily co-operated, and we believe in every instance gave the Government the right to run over their farms without demanding compensation. It was said at the time that Government contemplated building a series of farmers' lines of railway of a light type throughout the country, and that under notice was to be looked upon as an experimental line.

The earthworks of the first section of the line from Humewood (Port Elizabeth) were commenced in 1890. The work was taken in hand possibly earlier than it otherwise would, so as to give employment to the hundreds of refugees just then at the coast and doing nothing—men who had come south from the Transvaal and Free State during the early stage of the Anglo-Boer war.

The railway was not definitely decided on, however, without a considerable deal of agitation as to what form it should take, where the terminus should be, &c. Some advocated the broad gauge, which would have had the advantage of allowing the rolling stock to be used on any of the other railway systems, and transhipping of produce for up-country on to other trucks at Port Elizabeth would not then be necessary. Some, again, in advocating the broad gauge desired the terminus to be at Uitenhage, so that engines, coaches, and trucks requiring repairs could be taken direct into the Loco. Works at Uitenhage. But neither of these suggestions were considered favourably by the Government, and a branch of the line to Uitenhage was also refused. Port Elizabeth was the farmers' natural market, and it was decided to make that town the terminus.

The line appears quite a toy, being but 2-foot gauge, but the 5ft. 6in. sleepers keep it perfectly steady. In fact, there is less oscillation on the Port Elizabeth Avontuur Railway than on the

main lines. Originally the steepest gradient was 1 in 26, but this was reduced by the skill of the engineers to 1 in 40, while the steepest curve, originally two chains, was reduced to 2½ chains. Through the Nooitgedacht farm there is one bank 14 feet high, while through Van Staadens the work was very heavy, some of the rock cuttings being 20 feet high. The scenery through the Van Staaden's Pass from Thornhill to the Gamtoos is very fine. There also the steepest gradients and the sharpest curves are to be negotiated. In April, 1903, the earth works were completed to Loerie River Hoogte, five miles beyond Thornhill, and 40 miles from Port Elizabeth, but by this time the rails had almost been laid to Van Staadens, which was actually reached before the end of the month.

The bridge there is a fine specimen of engineering, and is 255 feet high, 600 feet long, springing upwards from the depths of the valley, and forming a magnificent piece of work.

There are over seventy bridges on the line, which was opened as far as Gedultz River on the 27th April, 1903. When the line is completed it is estimated that it will carry into Port Elizabeth 12,600 tons of produce per annum, and take out about 4,000 tons.

The six-couple engines are capable of hauling 120 tons gross over the heaviest portion of the line, and they are the heaviest used on light railways in the world. But it must not be forgotten that the Port Elizabeth Avontuur Railway itself is one of the longest of its class yet constructed anywhere. Mr. F. Bodker was the first resident engineer, but he was accidentally killed by being run over while travelling down the line on a trolley in 1904. The work of construction is still proceeding, and the railway will soon connect the Eastern with the Western Province by the coast route. The line was opened to Humansdorp on the 1st November 1905, and on the 1st March, 1906, to Two Streams, about 90 miles from Port Elizabeth.

The bridges and culverts are constructed of sufficient strength to carry trains of the broad gauge if it is at any time found necessary to make this change; and we should say that in the not distant future this will be found necessary, for the line is proving a paying concern, and with the development of the country through which it runs further facilities for increased traffic will without doubt be desirable.

Redhouse. This popular resort lies midway between Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth, and although it is the merest hamlet, its claim to our notice lies in the fact of its being a favourite river-side pleasure resort for the inhabitants of Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth. The houses are mostly owned by those whose business avocations take them to either town (but mostly to the Bay) every morning, and who, being fond of boating, prefer to be nearer the river than they could be if they lived in Uitenhage or in Port Elizabeth. Despite its charms as a riparian resort, it is extremely unlikely that Redhouse will ever prove a serious rival to the Garden Town, for the water supply is poor in the extreme, and the villiage is at present almost entirely dependent upon Uitenhage for what it receives. The river is more open and less impeded with sandbanks than it is at Zwartkops, and the tide ebbs and flows as far as a spot some distance above the village. Several jetties have been built, and besides the sailing boats owned by the residents, there is quite a little fleet at the disposal of those visitors who care to spend a day with sail, oar, or rod on those reaches of the Zwartkops river which are the more readily accessible from this centre.

ANOTHER VIEW OF HELL'S GATE.

Near Redhouse is the site of the old half-way house to Port Elizabeth, but the village itself may be said to have been founded—if such a term can be employed—shortly after the railway connected the port with the mother town. Good fishing may generally be had in the river.

Zwartkops. The village of Zwartkops, the peaceful rival of Redhouse as a river-side residence for Port Elizabeth business men, is of more general importance than Redhouse, inasmuch as it is one of the busiest railway junctions in the Eastern Province, for here the Midland line strikes off from the Graaff-Reinet line. The population of the place exceeds that of Redhouse, and, although the situation is somewhat bleak, the village has its advantages, which are appreciated chiefly by lovers of fishing with the rod. There is splendid angling to be had here, as well as boating; but the novice has to be very careful of the treacherous sandbanks and bends in the river, for many have been the distressing and fatal accidents to boating parties we have seen reported from Zwartkops. Experienced boatmen, however, are to be engaged, under whose pilotage no fear need be entertained. There are many nice houses at Zwartkops, and a very decent hotel, but, as at Redhouse, the supply of fresh water is not by any means adequate. Zwartkops is situated about two and a half miles from Redhouse, and nearer the mouth of the Zwartkops. It has been suggested to dockise the mouth of this river, to facilitate work in connection with the shipping, and so minimise the dangers to which vessels at anchor in Algoa Bay are subjected. If this great work is ever taken in hand Zwartkops has an immense future before it, for the village must rapidly grow seawards.

Census Returns. We think a brief table showing the population of the various districts that go to make up the division will form an appropriate conclusion to this work. The census that should have been taken in 1901 was delayed until 1904 by the war which was then raging in the Colony, so that the respectable increase of 21,735 in the districts of Uitenhage, Humansdorp, Jansenville, Alexandria, and Willowmore cover a period of 13 years instead of 10 years. The figures we have been enabled to obtain are as follow :—

UITENHAGE—TOWN.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.
Census, 1904				
Europeans	3,602	3,017	6,679	
Coloured	2,850	2,668	5,518	
	6,512	5,685	12,197	
Census, 1891.				
Europeans	1,631	1,552	3,183	
Coloured	1,432	1,473	2,905	
	3,063	3,025	6,188	6,009

UITENHAGE—DISTRICT.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Census, 1904.				
Europeans	3,130	2,674	5,804	
Coloured	7,372	6,525	13,897	
	10,502	9,199	19,701	
Census, 1891.				
Europeans	2,119	1,861	3,980	
Coloured	5,592	5,236	10,828	
	7,711	7,097	14,808	4,893

HUMANSDORP.

Census 1904	Urban Areas	2,473	
,, ,,	Rural Areas	11,528	14,001
Census, 1891.	Urban Areas	1,193	
,, ,,	Rural Areas	10,653	11,846
	Increase		2,155

WILLOWMORE.

Census 1904	Total inhabitants	11,888	
,, 1891.	,, ,,	9,014	
	Increase		2,874

JANSENVILLE.

Census, 1904.	rotal inhabitants	11,326	
,, 1891.	,, ,,	6,353	
	Increase		4,973

ALEXANDRIA.

Census, 1904.	Total inhabitants	10,809	
,, 1891.	,, ,,	9,978	
	Increase		831
	Total increase		21,735

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Fennell & Austin,

THE Grocerymen,

Proprietors of the popular "F & A" Brand of Tea and Coffee are, as usual, stocking the Finest Quality of Provisions only.

Customers are waited upon daily, and F. & A. have exceptional facilities for the speedy execution of Country Orders.

A Discount of 5% is allowed on Current Accounts.

Price Lists may be obtained at any of our Establishments.

Central Stores: Market Street.
Branches: Upper and Lower Caledon Street,
UITENHAGE.

To the House-wives of Uitenhage & District.

Interior of Shop.

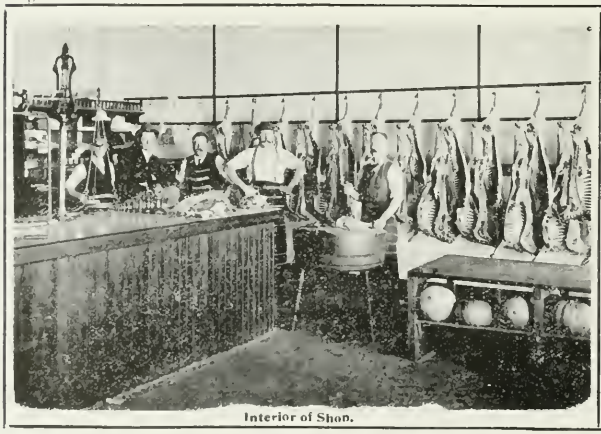
Postal Address: P. O. Box 71. Tel. Address: "NATIONAL."

The National Butchery Co.,

Ice and Cold Storage Works,

Houses, Restaurants, and Private Families Supplied.

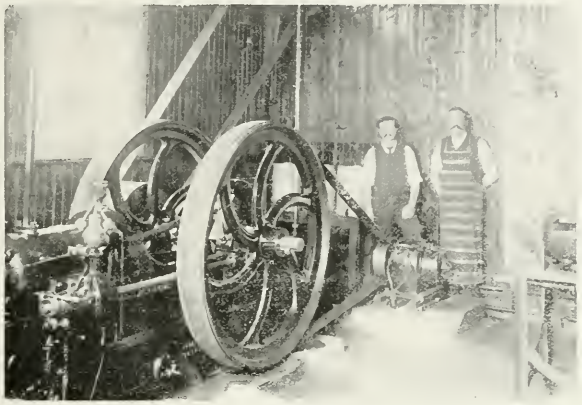
Market Street, UITENHAGE.



Interior of Shop.

Orders called for and Van Deliveries Daily.

Fish of all descriptions packed in Ice and sent to all parts of the country.



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A Word from THE Uitenhage Butchery

THIS is not a Philanthropic Institute, but a busines conducted on business lines, As such we have tried to anticipate your every requirement in the Butchery line, and pride ourselves on being successful in this respect.

As everyone knows Cold Storage is an absolute necessity in a climate such as ours, and to meet the demand we have erected a REFRIGERATING CHAMBER of the latest model and up to date in every respect. The average temperature in this chamber is 15 degrees below Freezing Point. CLEANLINESS is our motto. Our premises were specially erected to meet the requirements of a First-class Trade and are illuminated throughout with Electricity. We kill and import only the very best meat and have always on hand a liberal supply of BEEF, MUTTON, LAMB, VEAL, PORK and all kinds of Game when in season. Our ICE-MAKING MACHINERY is quite up-to-date, and this commodity is sold at very moderate prices.

We supply FOWLS, PORK, HAM, TURKEYS, DUCKS, GEESE, ready cooked at a slight extra charge, also SPICED BEEF, etc.

The National Butchery Co.,

Market Street,

UITENHAGE.

N. B. Co's. Premises.

Muir College,

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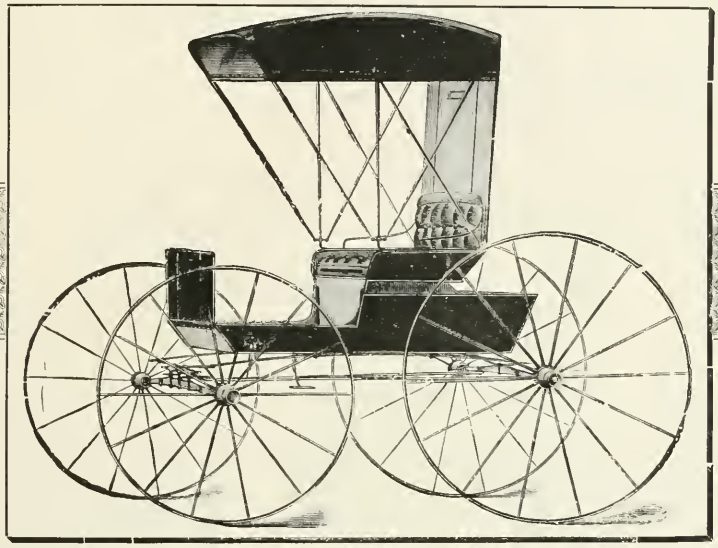

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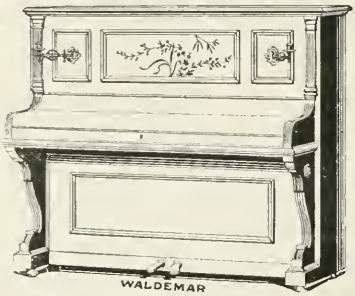

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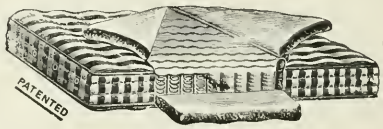

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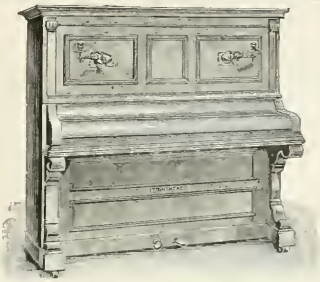

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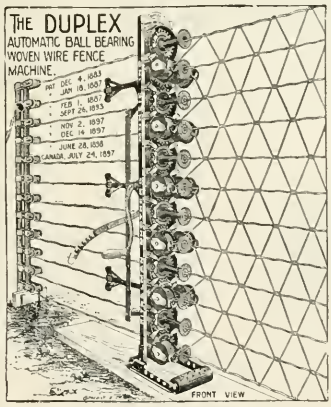

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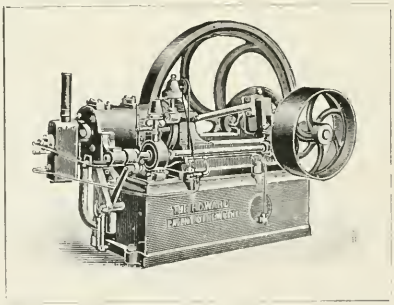

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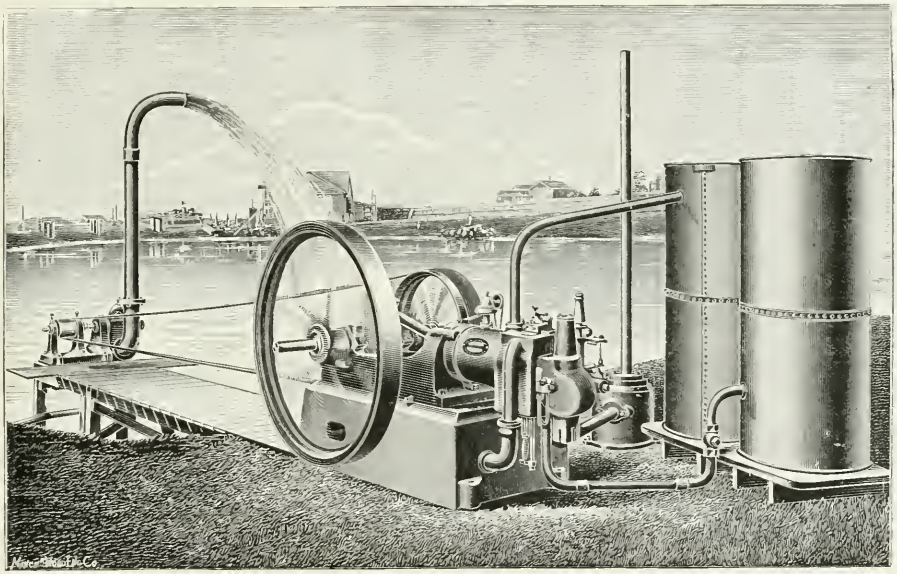

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